

# the Bullet



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Serving the Mary Washington Community since 1922.

## What's Inside

Breaking News



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April 2, 2009

## Chris Brown Plays Pick-Up Game at Goolrick, Draws Crowd and Media



Junior Noelle Turbitt asked Chris Brown to join in the game. He declined.

An unexpected visit from R&B singer Chris Brown sparks national attention for Mary Washington.

By SUSANNAH CLARK  
and RYAN MARR  
Staff Writers

R&B singer Chris Brown's surprise visit to the Goolrick gymnasium on Tuesday evening prompted national coverage and an upsurge on campus, as the singer and his entourage played several pick-up games with UMW basketball players.

Hundreds of students watched from the sidelines, taking photos with their camera phones and cheering when Brown dribbled the ball.

Brown's entourage was invited by Assistant Dean of Admissions Kris Hairston, who also serves as assistant basketball coach. According to Hairston, one of Brown's high-school friends from Tappahannock

County is interested in transferring to Mary Washington.

"His friend had approached me about checking out the basketball facilities at Mary Washington," Hairston said. "When I told him he could come on Tuesday evening, he said, 'Okay, I'm bringing Chris Brown.'"

Sophomores Danny Kim and Kevin Abalos were playing one-on-one in the gym when Brown's security guards asked them to get off the court.

"They said we could play 'winner,' " Abalos said. "After they played two games, we realized we weren't getting the court back."

Last month, Brown was charged with felony assault and making criminal threats in connection with an alleged altercation with popular R&B singer Rihanna, his then girl-

friend.

"It's funny, because two hours ago, everyone hated him," Kim said. "Now all the girls are lining up to get their picture taken with him."

Sophomore Sammy Luffy was surprised when she heard about Brown's visit.

"It's weird that Ben Folds was here [on Monday] and now Chris Brown is here," she said. "I mean, this is Fredericksburg. Who ever comes to Fredericksburg?"

Several popular gossip websites had stories about Brown's appearance, including TMZ.com, which posted an exclusive video of Brown's missing a basket.

Celebrity news source Access Hollywood called the Office of University Relations.

▶ See BROWN, page 11

Courtside Comment  
Offends Students

By SUSANNAH CLARK  
Staff Writer

As R&B singer Chris Brown played a pick-up game in Goolrick Gymnasium on Tuesday night, Traci Dittiro and Anne LaPerla playfully nabbed two of the basketballs Brown's entourage was playing with.

"I told them that we would only give them the balls back if they let us get a picture with Chris Brown," Dittiro said.

Then one of the men on the court said something that offended the two girls and the crowd surrounding them.

"We both heard the guy say, 'If I got you a picture, you'll get beat up too,'" Dittiro said.

Dittiro, a freshman, and LaPerla, a sophomore, took the comment as a reference to Brown's recent charges of felony assault and making criminal threats in connection with an alleged altercation with popular R&B singer Rihanna.

"That's pretty much the worst thing you could say about Chris Brown right now," LaPerla said. "The crowd was shocked; everyone's jaws dropped."

▶ See COMMENT, page 11

## Election Recalled

By ELIZABETH NOWROUZ  
Staff Writer

At an emergency hearing of the Judicial Review Board early Wednesday morning, student judicial representatives ruled that last week's Honor Council elections were invalid due to candidate violations.

This decision followed a student appeal regarding a decision made by the Election Rules and Procedures Committee of the Student Government Association to not re-hold elections. The JRB overturned this decision, and as a result, the Honor Council elections must be re-held.

Junior James Martin, who won the election, as well juniors Sarah Payne and Paul Dolan, who were also ran for the position, will have to participate in another election.

According to senior Nick Perilla, president of the JRB, the student government constitution states that the elections must be re-held within five class days of the decision.

"We brought together the person who made the appeal as well as the committee," Perilla said. "We didn't give them any time limitations and let them make their cases. What was ultimately decided was that there were enough grounds to hold another election."

As of now, the date of the new election has not been set.

Senior Sean O'Brien is the president of the UMW student government. While he does not have a role in the election process, his concerns are chiefly that the process be carried out in a way that is fair and does not reflect poorly on the student government.

"The concern is that you want to have a fair election," O'Brien said. "This needs to be dealt with in a way that is fair and doesn't damage the credibility of the student government."

Current election results for all positions except Honor Council President are available on pg. 11.



Above: The man whose comment offended two students.

## Teresa Mannix Leaves UMW



Justin Toney/Bullet

Above: Teresa Mannix chats with colleagues at her goodbye party in George Washington Hall.

By JUSTIN TONEY  
Staff Writer

Tuesday afternoon, Mary Washington employees past and present crowded in and out of Dodd Foyer to give their sometimes-teary-eyed farewells to a short, red-headed woman who stood somewhat sheepishly in the corner.

Teresa Mannix, director of news and public information, is known best to students by her name on the emails she sends. To the staff, however, hers is well-known face.

Taking over the position in 2006 from now retired Margaret Mock, Mannix became the voice of the school.

"Teresa is one of those rare people who loves their job, works hard and never complains. I have never heard her complain," Mock said.

A 2001 alumna, Mannix has worked in the office of university relations for eight years. That is, until yesterday when she began work at the McDonough School of Business through Georgetown University as their director of media relations.

"This is exactly what I predicted for her," Mock said. "That she was so good that we'd lose her to a college like Georgetown."

"I think I'm going to miss my connection to Mary Washington, because I can work lots of places but I'll never have that knowledge that I went here, I lived here, I went to events," said Mannix, who also said that she'll miss the people most of all.

It wasn't long after her graduation that the office of Ron Singleton, director of university relations at the time,

▶ See MANNIX, page 11

## Technical Glitch Hinders Sophomore Registration



By KAT SAUNDERS  
Staff Writer

On March 30, sophomore LeAnn Taggart woke up to her roommate yelling at the computer. Sophomore class registration for fall semester had begun at 8 a.m., and like many students, Taggart and her roommate were unable to log in to EagleLink in order to access the registration page.

Taggart said she attempted to access the website on several computers, and when she was unable to get through, she began calling the Office of the Registrar. After 45 minutes of busy signals, she was able to reach the office and have them register her.

"By that time some of my classes were gone, which is depressing on so many levels," Taggart said.

According to Acting Registrar Michael Donlan, approximately 200 students contacted the Office of the Registrar with problems directly stemming from the issue with EagleLink.

"One out of every three people or so were having problems," Donlan said.

The failure was due to an issue with the EagleLink "portal," the webpage that links to a number of UMW online services, including Banner, Blackboard and EagleOne. Because the issue did not affect EagleLink as a whole or the self-service entrance to log into Banner,

the Department of Information and Technology were able to provide an alternative log-in by 12 p.m.

Donlan said that the Office of the Registrar has several emergency plans in place for technology problems, and

“

Obviously we apologize for what happened, and obviously we'll see that this never happens again.

—Michael Donlan

“

providing an alternative log in was Plan B."

"Technology will unfortunately fail you at the most inconvenient times, and we did the best we could for students," Donlan said.

The failure could have been caused by a number of factors, including the increased number of students slated to register this year. According to Justin

Courtesy of eaglelink.umw.edu

Webb, director of applications programming, the exact cause of the failure is still being determined.

"We will continue to investigate these variables in an effort to determine what specifically caused delays and issues for users, but there are many possibilities to rule out," Webb said.

After the alternative login was provided, the number of students reporting problems to the technology department decreased. However, many students were still affected.

"Our records indicate that of the 925 students that registered for fall courses on Monday, 669 of those were able to successfully register online," Webb said in an e-mail. "256 users registered through the help of the Registrar's office."

Donlan said that his office usually has about 50 students register in person due to problems with pre-requisites or scheduling confusion.

"There are registration issues here and there, but nothing of this magnitude," he said.

All students who came into the office or called had their registration entered manually for them. Donlan said that while some students were upset, the process within the office went smoothly, and most of the situations brought to him were resolved.

▶ See EAGLELINK, page 11

## Upcoming Events:

### Korean Culture and Study Sessions

**Thurs., April 2, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m., Red Room, Sunshine University** will be available to answer questions about studying and teaching abroad.

### Fashion International First Runway Show.

**Thurs., April 2, 7:30 p.m., Great Hall.** Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets available at the **Next.**

### Inauguration

**Fri., April 3, 3:15 p.m., Dodd Auditorium.** Inauguration of President Judy G. Hample, eighth president of the University of Mary Washington; Installation Ceremony. Ticket required, 654-1301

### Campus Christian Community Yardsale

**Sat., April 4, 8 a.m.- 12 p.m., 1213 Dandridge St.**

### Battle of the Bands

**Mon., March 30, 8 p.m.** Eleven bands will compete for prizes, courtesy of Giant Productions.

### 19th Annual Multicultural Fair

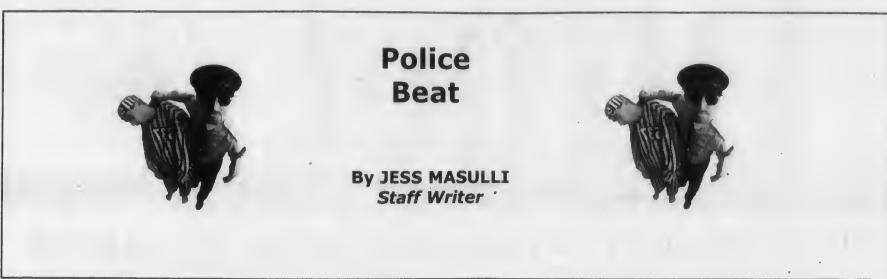
**Sat., April 4, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., Campus Walk.** complete day devoted to a variety of cultural experiences and activities.

### Cheap Seats

**Fri.-Sun., 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.**

**Showing Doubt and Valkyrie.**

**Want to get involved? Come to a staff meeting on Sunday at 8 p.m. in the Bullet office, located in the lower-level of Seacobeck, or contact newsxcrew@gmail.com**



## Police Beat

By JESS MASULLI  
Staff Writer

**March 13-** On Feb. 27, a Fuji AcrossTown bicycle was stolen from the bike rack in front of Alvey Hall. The theft was not reported until March 13. The silver bicycle with gray and green accents was valued at approximately \$400. The bicycle was entered into the National Criminal Information Center using an owner reply number. There are no suspects or witnesses.

**March 14-** At 3 a.m., it was reported by two females in UMW Apartment Building 7 that a commuter student had entered their apartment. The 22-year-old commuter was screaming obscenities at the sleeping students. It is unknown how the commuter gained access to the apartment. The case was referred to Student Affairs.

**March 15-** At 3:56 a.m., a smoke alarm in Westmoreland was triggered. The Fredericksburg Fire Department arrived, but was unable to determine where the smoke came from. The next day it was determined that a fire alarm had been pulled. There are no suspects or witnesses.

**March 17-** At 2:32 a.m., a female

student was dropped off by a Fredericksburg police officer at her residence, Randolph Hall. Fredericksburg police had found the student sitting in a car on Blue and Grey Parkway. When the student arrived, she was unable to get into her room on the first floor because she did not have her key. Residence Life called Campus Police. The officer explained to the student that she needed to stay in her room and not come out until the morning. She was escorted in, but deliberately stepped out of the room. She was arrested for drunk in public and referred to the administration.

**March 18-** Between 9 p.m. on March 17 and 2 a.m. on March 18, an 18-year-old Alvey Hall male reported a Huffy Catalina bicycle and lock stolen. The \$20 bicycle and \$14 lock were attached to the Russell Hall sign. The bicycle was gold with a burgundy seat. The bicycle was recovered on March 19 at 5 p.m. at Randolph Hall. The lock was never found. There are no suspects or witnesses.

**March 18-** Between 6:30 a.m. and 8:41 p.m., the sign for the Westmoreland Assistant Director parking

space was stolen. The estimated value is \$150. There are no suspects or witnesses.

**March 21-** At 12:27 a.m., an exit sign was destroyed in the east stairwell of Mason Hall. The sign was knocked off the wall and smashed to pieces. The estimated value is \$250. The investigation is continuing.

**March 25-** Between 10:38 a.m. on March 25 and 9:30 p.m. on March 24, five pounds of jumbo shrimp were stolen from a walk-in freezer at Seacobeck. The estimated value of the crustaceans is \$59.67. The investigation is continuing with many suspects.

**March 24 and March 25-** In a string of Junior Ring Week pranks, three vehicles were covered with flour and toilet paper. Campus Police called the victims, who had not yet seen the prank. All victims declined to prosecute.

**March 23-** At 1:34 a.m., an anonymous complaint claimed that a drunk man was stumbling near the Bell Tower. An officer found a male that fit the description. The

male was not intoxicated, but slightly impaired from drinking. The 16-year-old Fredericksburg resident was issued a trespassing warning and escorted off campus.

**March 22-** At 3:09 a.m., an officer doing parking enforcement found a female sleeping in the back of her car in Lot 2 of George Washington Hall. The first-floor Westmoreland student was drunk and unable to form coherent sentences. The 19-year-old was transported to Mary Washington Hospital and referred to the administration.

**March 21-** At 3:21 a.m., it was reported that a male on the fourth floor of Bushnell was extremely intoxicated. The 19-year-old male was unresponsive when the officer first arrived. An RA reported that the student had taken 10 shots in three hours. The student began to respond, but had difficulty communicating. According to friends, he had fallen out of bed and hit his head. He was transported to Mary Washington Hospital and referred to the administration.

This information has been compiled with the help of the University of Mary Washington Police Department.

## Va. Smoking Ban Affects Hangouts

By BRYNN BOYER  
Staff Writer

Sitting outside Combs Hall after class on a sunny morning, sophomore Alyssa Dandrea exhales slowly. A thin stream of smoke dissipates as she lowers the cigarette to her side. She is used to smoking outside; the Mary Washington campus prohibits smoking in all buildings. By the end of the year, she won't be able to smoke indoors in any public place because of Virginia's recently passed smoking ban.

"Because the law is about smoking inside, I understand," she said. "When there are other people around I can see how smoking could be aggravating for nonsmokers."

The Indoor Clean Air Act, which will take effect Dec. 1, prohibits smoking in public buildings and restaurants. The act, according to the Virginia General Assembly, passed the Virginia House and Senate in late February and was officially enacted by Governor Kaine March 9. The law includes several exemptions to appease businesses, including the ability of a business to retain a smoking section if it is completely separate from the nonsmoking section and has its own ventilation system.

A bipartisan effort between Democratic Senator Ralph Northam and Republican Delegate John Cosgrove, the bill has incited mixed reactions from the public.

Some businesses are embracing the law as a way to bring in a more family-oriented crowd, while others decry the government's involvement in their affairs.

"We're loving life right now," Kelly Decatur, assistant general manager of Hard Times Café in Fredericksburg, said. She explained that since Hard Times is already in compliance with the bill, it won't have to spend additional money on construction like other establishments might.

"We're hoping to raise business and draw the crowds from Fatty J's and Buffalo Wild Wings," she said, since those restaurants will have to undergo construction to meet the demands of the law.

"The customers are loving it," De-



Courtesy of LDRBRS on flickr.com

catur said. "We're very excited about it."

Some students are supporters of the bill because of the risks of exposure to secondhand smoke.

"I always want the opportunity not to expose myself to it," freshman Anna Hall-brooks-Fulks said.

Freshman Jane Ballard agreed. "I definitely support this," she said. "Some restaurants are really smoky because the sections aren't separated enough."

After Dec. 1, Capital Ale House won't have sections at all. The popular Friday night hangout for students and locals will be completely non-smoking, general manager Kevin Abley said.

Abley noted that he doesn't think business will suffer because of the law.

"I do not anticipate our late night business to drop off as long as we are on a level playing field with everyone else," he said.

However, although the law may end up being beneficial for business, Abley acknowledged that he was torn in support of it.

"I am a non-smoker and will appreciate being able to enjoy restaurants and bars without cigarette smoke," he said. "However, as a businessperson, I believe that it is the prerogative of business owners to make their own decisions as to

## Administration Responds to Drug Policy Proposal

By JOHANNAH O'KEEFE  
Staff Writer

In response to the March 26 bullet article on student endorsement of a "second-chance" drug policy, Ray Tuttle, director of Judicial Affairs and Community Responsibility, shared some administrative arguments against the new policy.

Tuttle's concerns over the implementation of a "second chance" drug policy toward marijuana lay mainly in what he sees as misperceived benefits, and in the negative effects the policy might have on the greater UMW community and Fredericksburg.

At Mary Washington, any judicial violation, not just those that are drug-related, for which a student is found responsible remains on the student's record while he or she is a student at UMW, and then for at least three years afterwards.

"A 'second chance' drug policy does not mean that the first incident wouldn't be documented and adjudicated, and that it would have no practical impact on the student," Tuttle said.

Under a second chance policy, a student found responsible for a marijuana violation would carry that vi-

olation on his or her educational record, but he or she would not be expelled from the school until found responsible for a second offense.

"Even if students are given a 'second chance,' Tuttle said, 'and allowed to remain at the institution, they will need to ask themselves if potentially having a drug violation on their educational record is acceptable to them.'

According to Tuttle, many students charged with a drug violation at UMW choose to withdraw from the university rather than go through a judicial hearing and risk the violation appearing on their educational record. He does not see how a 'second chance' policy would change this in a substantive way.

Tuttle also stressed that those students in favor of the new policy need to take into consideration how it might affect the greater UMW community. He feels that a "second chance" drug policy at the university might lead to an increase in drug use and drug trafficking in the area.

"Our current policy helps students and other members of the UMW community feel that this is a safe place to be," he said. "That's not a small thing."

## Correction

In "Students Endorse..." (March 26), it was stated that by March 21, 233 students had signed the second chance drug policy petition. On March 21, 133 students had signed. After more petitioning, 261 total signed.

► See SMOKING, page 11

Have any ideas, tips or suggestions? E-mail newsxcrew@gmail.com

# Viewpoints

## Students Deserve Two Chances in Drug Issues

College campuses tend to be environments of experimentation and understanding before students enter the real world, but in the case of the University's one-strike drug policy, students are held to an excessively strict standard.

We believe that a second chance drug policy would be more conducive to an environment where students are not simply punished, but are instead encouraged to learn from mistakes.

A Virginia citizen convicted for the first time of marijuana possession at most will go to jail for 30 days, pay \$500 and have their driving license suspended.

If the same crime were to occur on our campus, a student would be kicked out of school, on top of everything mentioned above.

It does not make sense that a college student would face a stricter punishment than an adult citizen, ostensibly with more real life experience.

Whether or not the school has a one- or two-strike policy, a student has to deal with the consequences of having a drug conviction on his or her school, and, potentially, criminal record.

Most college students are capable of learning from mistakes. The one-strike policy does not allow for this type of learning.

Instead, it sends a message that students are allowed to learn from mistakes with alcohol, but not drugs.

This mixed message is especially confusing in a society that condones excessive alcohol use to a point, but is unwilling to budge when it comes to similar substances.

A second chance policy is far from condoning drug use.

## Staff Editorial

If a violator did not learn the first time, then they would rightly face severe consequences.

The current policy is causing a major problem by forcing students to hide their drug use when problems arise.

If a student has an emergency where drugs are involved, they may be unwilling to contact the police because, in their eyes, the consequences may outweigh the benefits.

The policy could potentially result in a dangerous situation.

Students are beginning to take issue with the policy: a second chance initiative passed through both Student Senate and Executive Cabinet.

This shows that the administration needs to start taking into consideration the growing number of concerns that even student leaders are having.

A better option would be a diversion policy, similar to the one proposed at Virginia Tech.

There, first time offenders of the drug policy would undergo an evaluation and treatment. A second time offender is expelled.

If implemented at UMW, this type of policy would warn students that drug use is serious, but it allows for rehabilitation and learning.

If the administration were to begin serious discussions on such a policy, they would be following the national debate that has become more aggressive since the Obama administration has taken office.

As many Americans call for decriminalization, medical marijuana legalization and an end to the War on Drugs, the University needs seriously to consider a policy that is more in line with this trend.

## Faulty Registration Costs Students Time and Potentially More

BY BREEANNA SVEUM  
Assistant Viewpoints Editor

The following is a real-time account of my experiences with registering for classes for the fall semester on Monday:

11:59 a.m.: Log into Eaglelink, which loads. When I go to register, I am told I'm not allowed. This is expected since my registration period begins at noon. The classes that I planned to register for are still open.

12:02 p.m.: Eaglelink loading.

12:15 p.m.: Eaglelink still loading.

12:27 p.m.: Eaglelink is still loading and refuses to load after multiple attempts to load the sign-in page and Banner.

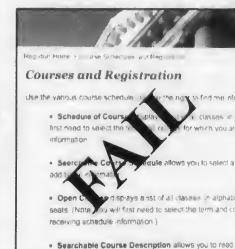
12:30 p.m.: Eaglelink finally loads, allowing me to log in and attempt to register. I put in my registration pin number. I am told I am not permitted to register at this time. I recheck registration times and my completed credits. I am correct; my registration period began at noon. I retry, with the same result.

12:47 p.m.: I decide to see chair of the department of my major to see if my registration pin number is indeed correct. She is not, but students outside of her office say that being rejected for registration is the fault of the system, not my number, and that other people have had this problem.

12:50 p.m.: I decide to visit the registrar to see what can be done.

1:04 p.m.: I arrive at registrar's office. I am given a course registration sheet and told to fill it out, stand in line, and the registrar will register me for classes by hand. I see something like fifteen other people doing the same.

1:25 p.m.: I am finally registered for classes, having got two of the original six classes that I



Miles Dumville/Bullet

wanted and four of five alternates. I am registered for 12 credits for the fall semester.

1:45 p.m.: I try Eaglelink again. It loads, and allows me into registration. Nearly all classes for my major (English) are full. I resolve to stalk better classes during adjustment and add/drop.

Despite only having been registered for 12 credits in the fall, I was lucky. Other students in the registrar's office could only register for one or two of their desired class load, and without a computer to look up alternate courses, those students were stuck with the amount of credits they were registered for.

The adjustment period for fall registration begins on Monday, but with all the problems on Monday, I have serious doubts about the ability of the registration system to handle all of Mary Washington's current students scrambling to find enough credits to qualify for full-time enrollment without having to take classes that are unnecessary and take up space for classes that are necessary.

Getting into the right classes could affect whether or not a student graduates on time, and with the current economy as well as tuition rates continually rising, many students can't afford to stay an extra semester to make up for classes they couldn't register for.

Mary Washington should address these issues and take active steps to correct whatever problems resulted in the utter failure of Internet registration.

Monday has shown us that the current system has problems that need to be addressed. It is unacceptable for the entire system to "be down" when the system is designed for something so important.

At the very least, students who were unable to register for required classes deserve some accountability beyond "It's not our fault the system was down."

## Brown's Presence Is Ironic and Untimely

BY LOGAN METESH  
Guest Columnist

A friend called me Tuesday evening as I exited a lecture to inform me that Chris Brown was playing basketball in the gym here on campus.

Since I'm the university photographer, she asked me if I would get paid to go photograph him. I told her that I had no idea he was here and would prefer to not have known that someone as repugnant as Chris Brown was present on this campus.

Chris Brown was in the news lately because he was accused of assaulting and threatening his girlfriend and fellow R&B star, Rihanna.

I'm sure many people on this campus heard about this and were just as shocked and appalled as I was. How someone could treat his girlfriend like Brown did? I would certainly hope my confounded mindset was shared by many at Mary Washington.

And yet, Tuesday night seemed to prove otherwise.

After arriving back at my dorm, I logged onto Facebook and was dismayed by the large number of status updates relating to Chris Brown and the excitement that people felt because he was here.

Now, I understand he's a famous person, and let's face it, we don't get many of them around Fredericksburg, but wake up people.

The most ironic part of all this is that this week

has been chosen as the White Ribbon Campaign awareness week. The White Ribbon Campaign's goal is to end male violence toward women. And yet, Chris Brown shows up to shoot hoops during our White Ribbon Campaign week.

If the irony wasn't so sickening, I might be able to force a laugh, but I cannot.

I did not have the displeasure of seeing Chris Brown shooting hoops; however, I would bet my life that not a single person confronted him in any way about his wrongdoings. Instead, I'm sure his visit consisted of a small clump of people trying to get pictures and maybe even autographs. Again, I get it; he's famous.

I'd also be willing to bet that some people take pictures and beg for autographs were the same people who just a few weeks ago were appalled by his actions toward Rihanna.

Chris Brown should have been chased off of this campus instead of welcomed and allowed to stay and play basketball. If it had been Joe Shmoe of Fredericksburg facing felony battery charges, he would have been. No doubt about it.

Celebrity status does not excuse domestic violence.

Perhaps someone should have walked Chris Brown past Ball Circle with all of the white ribbons around it signifying women who died at the hands of abusers just like him.

Logan Metesh is a sophomore.

## Letter to the Editor: A Call for an Honor Council Re-election Is Unwarranted

Last week, students from across UMW voted and chose their leadership for next year.

By a wide margin, we chose James Martin to serve as Honor Council President, despite multiple negative attacks and attempts to defame his character.

Unfortunately, the voice of the student body wasn't quite loud enough for one opponent and they contested the election.

The Elections, Rules, and Procedures Committee, which ran a fair election, ruled that the person had no grounds to appeal. The JRB, however, found a minor technicality not even relating to any candidate and threw out the election.

So despite the fact that James won by a wide margin, committed no election violations, and ran a clean campaign, he has to endure another election.

This pettiness doesn't just reflect poorly on one sore loser, it makes all of us look bad.

So don't reward this kind of behavior.

James Martin ran a campaign on the experience gained on Honor Council and his ideas for the future and the students responded and chose him.

I propose we do it again.

Sam Bradshaw is a junior.

# the Bullet

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Mary Washington  
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## Letter and Editorial Policy

The Bullet is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them.

Letters should be submitted the Monday before publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be typed, double-spaced.

We will not publish anonymous submissions. Letters must include a phone number and address for purposes of verification. They can be mailed to the Bullet at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666, delivered to our office in Seacolbeck Hall or sent to our e-mail at [umwbullet@gmail.com](mailto:umwbullet@gmail.com).

Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. Contact the Bullet at 540-654-1133.

# Viewpoints

## Virginity: Stories of Experience Pressure Others

I remember during my freshman year when the girls in my hall and I started to hang out for the first time. We were all sitting in my room, talking about silly freshman things like, our old high schools and boyfriends. Of course the subject of sex-and who did what-came up.

Having lived in a bubble most of my adolescence, the only idea of intimacy that I really understood was what I had seen from soft-core porn on late night HBO. I was terribly overwhelmed and intimidated when I heard each girl coolly list off past sexual encounters, from hardcore make out sessions to running around the various bases, all the way to losing that ever-important v-card, aka virginity.

The girls with more experience in the group immediately went into detail for the less experienced, myself included, on what sex was like and how they each felt about it.

Soon the conversation turned from explanation for the little virgins to a deeper, more confusing conversation between the experienced. They spoke this strange language between one another that I could only gawk at and listen to with awe.

Without even meaning to, these girls had built up pressure for the rest of us. I had subconsciously placed the v-card on a pedestal and wanted to knock it down as soon as possible. In fact, a lot of girls felt the same way that year and story after story came out about who slept with whom and who broke whose sexually confused heart.

Of course in retrospect, I roll my eyes at all of those stupid insecurities. This strange race to the cherry-popping finish line was not only a way to give up something that should have been a special moment for each given girl but in the end, left an opening that certainly wasn't filled from self-induced forced sexual encounters.

*Sexclamations*  
By KJ Adler,  
Staff Writer

ABC news conducted a survey in 2004 on the sexual practices of men and women, comparing not only the difference between the two sexes but also on the differences between the sexual practices of the 1950s and of today.

According to the survey, 97 percent of American adults have had sexual intercourse, and the average age of virginity loss is the age of 18. Seniors reported an average first-time age of 19 while adults under the age of 25 lost their v-card at 16. Only 1 percent said they first had sex at age 30 or later.

The poll adds that half of women and 37 percent of men say that in retrospect they started too young. Yet despite the insight of the adult population, there is still a general push within the

younger generation to get their groove on as soon as possible.

There are also so many excuses centered on why virginity must go: I wanted the practice, we were in the mood, I wanted to get it over with, he said he loved me.

Yet when someone admits that they are a virgin, it's as if they are required to provide some deep, dark story behind their decision.

...when someone admits that they are a virgin, it's as if they are required to provide some deep, dark story behind their decision.

”

I've even have friends respond with a look of shock, sometimes disbelief; when they hear that a fellow acquaintance is a virgin. Not because of religion or cultural practices, but simply because they haven't found the right person yet. And

rather than act like a hero for keeping their legs closed, often my virgin friends will act bashful about the whole situation, as if it's embarrassing to have kept their honor for just a little bit longer.

Personally, I commend anyone who knows him or herself well enough to keep out of the sack until they are ready.

If you want to have sex, then by all means go for it, but that doesn't mean you need to rub it in other peoples' faces. Bragging rights are so blasé.

“There may be honor among thieves, but there's none in politicians.”



photo courtesy of wikipedia.org

That's nice, Lawrence. Submit your political opinions in a guest column to [umwbullet@gmail.com](mailto:umwbullet@gmail.com)

## Everything That Rises Must Converge

I wonder what the inside of a CD looks like, "my older sister said to me, as she picked at the seal of the self-titled Ben Folds Five album our father had just purchased for us.

"I dare you to crack it in half," she said, handing the case to me and smirking devilishly.

I was 8 years old at the time, and desperate to impress my cool preteen-sister.

I took the unplayed disc out of its case, and bent it in half with two hands as if I was breaking bread at the Last Supper.

Instead of sparks or lime green goo as we'd imagined, the inside of a CD is just gray plastic.

We were disappointed, but not as disappointed as my father was when he found out we bent the \$18 CD he just bought for us in half. It took a lot of convincing to get him to buy us that Aqua CD that Christmas.

While that Ben Folds Five album never made it to the boom box, 12 years later I would be getting paid \$25 to cover a Ben Folds concert for a daily newspaper.

I've now seen him play twice, and the Ben Folds Live album has become a staple on my iPod.

You never know what'll end up having significance.

The most seemingly arbitrary people and things you encounter today could end up impacting your life years later.

Years later, I did end up purchasing another copy of that Ben Folds Five album, but this time it was on iTunes.

I guess I'll never get to hear them on CD.

In 1964, when my mother was 10 years

old, she was given the choice to go see one of the two hottest British Invasion bands that were both coming to Raleigh, N.C.: the Dave Clark Five and a little no-name called the Rolling Stones.

My mother picked the Dave Clark Five. Little did my mother know that four years

later, she would make a pact with her best friend to one day tour as the "woo-woo"ers for "Sympathy for the Devil," a song by her very favorite band, the Rolling Stones.

After two decades of kicking herself, my mother finally got to see the Rolling Stones in concert in 1981, on an early date with another man named Clark, the man she would one day marry.

But hey, if it weren't for the Dave Clark Five, Ben Folds wouldn't have known what to name his first band.

This unexpected significance phenomenon can be applied to people as well as music.

During Orientation Week of my freshman year of college, a mysterious boy with shaggy hair complimented me on my t-shirt during an ice-breaker game.

Two years later, we officially met, and he became my first college-boyfriend.

That same Orientation day, I would meet Stephanie Tait, then editor-in-chief of the Mary Washington Bullet.

"Wow," I remember thinking. "It must take a lot to become editor-in-chief of a college newspaper. I could never do that."

Last Sunday night, I was elected editor-in-chief of this fine newspaper.

You just never know.



**Susannigans**  
By Susannah Clark,  
Associate Editor



image courtesy of wikipedia.org

# the Bullshit

Volume 6969, No. 1

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April 1, 2009

## What's Not here

**Watkins Dies**

Associate Professor, pictured above with a stranger's child, perished last January while writing his book "Goat Seed" p. 99

**Brown Around Town**

Super-hunk Chris Brown visits campus to speak about violence against women for White Ribbon Week, p. 66

**Lee Hall: Racist?**

Building named after Southern Civil War general? What's up with that? p. 0

## Weekend Weather with MIKE McCARTHY

**Friday**

Forest Fires

High: 451 F  
Low: 100**Saturday**

Flightless Birds

High: not very  
Low: Ground**Sunday**

Scattered Tears

High: screams  
Low: wimpers

## Frawley To D.D. For GM

By BOOGER JENKINS  
Staff BAMF

As part of the government's restructuring plan for General Motors, President Obama's Automotive Task Force made GM CEO Rick Wagner step aside. The president later announced that former UMW president William Frawley has been tapped to take over the reigns at GM.

"GM is running on three tires at the moment, and I feel it's important to have someone who knows what they're doing at the helm," Obama said.

Frawley's illustrious history with three-wheeled vehicles includes extensive experience with tricycles as a child, and with three-wheeled Toyotas in his

later years.

"Keeping GM from 'running off the road' is going to be tough," Frawley said. "But if I can wrangle a Camry to a safe stop on three wheels, I can definitely handle an automotive giant."

I'm gonna need more cough syrup.

~ Frawl-Dawg

The government has given Frawley 60 days to get General Motors back in line and eligible for another \$16 billion

in government aid. Although confident, Frawley realizes the magnitude of the challenge he faces. "I'm gonna need more cough syrup," he said Monday.

Immediately after getting the job, Frawley has been shouldered with reversing nearly 40 years of GM com-

pany policies and practices, as well as streamlining the auto giant's manufacturing structure and business model.

"The task at hand is particularly difficult when you're seeing double," Frawley said from his new office in Detroit. "But I see that challenge as an opportunity to take the tasks on from two different angles."

Obama quickly dismissed questions about Frawley's qualifications as a Fortune 500 CEO, telling reporters "it's not his professional background that counts here, it's what he can do when presented with a big machine running out of control."



Katy Burnell/Bullshit

## Blister Dick To Rock Out With "The Nuge"

By BEEF TREADWELL  
*Blisterdick's Biggest Fan*

Legendary Motor City rocker Ted Nugent is coming to UMW. The "Motor City Madman" agreed to come to UMW on condition that instead of money, he be paid in souls.

"We had to give up the souls of 3 junior staff members," said Giant Productions co-chair Barnabi Throckmorton. "I guess I was sad to lose good people, but this is the fuckin' Nuge," he continued.

In an interesting twist, Nugent refused to play in Dodd Auditorium, instead insisting that a pedestal be affixed to the top of the Belltower for his performance. "I can't be expected to play on the same level as all of you mortals," Nugent said in an interview.

When asked how he felt about playing to a largely liberal college audience, Nugent scalped Bullet staffer Ryan Marr. "I eat liberal pantries like you for fucking breakfast," Nugent quipped, as he fastened Marr's ginger hair to his

loincloth.

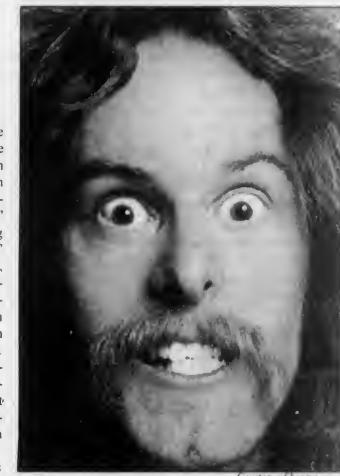
UMW nu-metal rockers Blister Dick, will open for Nugent. The band, compiled entirely of *Bullet* staff members, features juniors Miles Dunville and Aaron Richardson on vocals and guitar, respectively, senior Joey Merkl on bass and *Bullet* adviser Mike McCarthy on drums, the band formed last fall and has played extensively in the Fredericksburg area. "We're super-excited to get to play with the Nuge," McCarthy said.

"To be given this opportunity is such a huge honor," Dunville said between drags of a clove cigarette. "I mean, we haven't been playing together that long and Ted Nugent is huge."

Blister Dick are known in the Fredericksburg area for their unique brand of soulful, melodic nu-metal. "We put a lot of the darkness in our souls directly into our music. A lot of our angst comes from the fact that we were really bad at sports in high school and jocks made fun of us," said the gawky 43-year-old McCarthy.

Nugent rose to fame in the mid-seventies on the heels of such hits as "Cat-Scratch Fever" and "Wang Dang Sweet Poontang." More recently, Nugent has become synonymous with gun rights activism and conservatism. As well as continuing to tour extensively, Nugent makes regular appearances on VH1.

"The Nuge is looking forward to tearing your pansy liberal heads off with rock," said Fred Bear, Nugent's manager. "Ted's planning on raising the ghosts of the battle of Fredericksburg to help him show this town what rock and roll is."



Courtesy of hearya.com

"I'm gonna blow a new asshole in you liberals using my new .22 gage," says Nugent.

ghosts of the battle of Fredericksburg to help him show this town what rock and roll is."

## Peoples Without Houses Go Camp

By ANGER MONSOON  
*Ander Monson's Psudonym*

Ball Circle has collected a tiny community of socially and economically unimportant people. Starting last Monday, the students of UMW, living on \$2 a day set up their shanty-town.

According to "passerby" Donald McRichguy III, "These bums asked me for change. Do I look like I'm made of money?"

McRichguy, an administrator here at Mary Washington, was in fact wearing layers of gold. He was very tired.

The students and one professor, suffering from a lack of student aid and adequate living wage payments. Nobody cares, though, because the bums don't vote, pay taxes, or bathe.

Some of the wastes of oxygen have begun preaching their mad babbles to the passing crowds.

"It's no secret that poverty is everywhere," one said. "Just look around you."

The projects (dorms) of Mary Washington have been cesspools of disease, crime, and rampant alcoholism.

Just like the homeless, the living poor of the UMW Projects do not pay taxes, and therefore have no real importance to government bodies.

The Federal Government had this to say:

"We think... you know what? Fuck 'em."

If it weren't for that horse, then they

## Motherf-ing Swim Off

By B. Oliver O. McFEE  
BOOM

Eclectically-insane actor Christopher Walken surprised the University of Mary Washington campus Tuesday night when he reportedly showed up to practice with the Terrapins, the University's synchronized swimming team.

In a controversial turn of events, Walken was startled and surprised to find R&B superstar Ne-Yo was already in the middle of choreographing "some hot new dance moves" with the team.

"Well, yuh see. What we have here is a situation. And if this situation isn't resolved, it would be a shame to see an accident with uh, you know, no life guard on duty," Walken said tugging on the cuff of his white button-down shirt.

It seemed that the only way to solve the issue was a motherf-ing swim off. Quickly Walken and Ne-Yo began to choose teams but when there weren't enough people to make up equal teams, phone calls were made.

Within hours, actors Samuel L. Jackson, Alec Baldwin and Gary Busey showed up to support Team Walken. However, when a Maybach showed up behind Goolrick Gymnasium, the crowd's silence acknowledged that Ne-Yo must have had something up his sleeve.

As the door opened and a fresh set of kicks stepped on to the pavement, the crowd erupted and then quickly died down when people saw it was only Fabulous. But when rap superstar Bow Wow stepped out behind him, the demeanor quickly improved as college coeds ran screaming for the young braided-up rapper.

"Syncronized swimming has always been my first love," Baldwin said. "I was hoping the writers could work in to *30 Rock* but what could be better than a motherf-ing swim off?"

"Of course I'm here," Jackson shouted. "Don't you know I'm in every-



Courtesy of blogs.arts

Christopher Walken says you should not mess with him when he gets into the pool. He's super cereal about it.

thing?"

Bleachers at the Goolrick pool quickly filled up as students, faculty and administrators alike showed up to show their support.

The battle was heated through the first three rounds but the ever-present crowd applause-o-meter seemed to like both teams.

In round four, Team Walken stepped it up when his team, with Baldwin in the middle, pulled off a flawless flamingo and took it one step further after converting into a perfect knight

formation.

As Goolrick Gym erupted with cheering, Team Ne-Yo bowed out with their heads down, having to go back home to their mansions and contemplate their lives.

"I uh, was just glad that we could have all this settled. You ought to know what I'm capable," Walken said with his head up high. "Anytime he wants to have a dance off, I mean I was in the 'weapon of choice' music video, I got moves."

► Not CONTINUED, at all

# Mixed Feelings About New Lee Hall

By BRITTANY DEVRIES  
Real Person

On March 16, the University of Mary Washington Bookstore finally moved from its swampy Westmoreland lot to the newly renovated Lee Hall.

Where the Rappahannock is the typical destination for anyone in Fredericksburg looking to take a swim, Lee Hall's state-of-the-art renovations includes an Olympic-sized swimming pool in the back with two twisty water slides, one tropical and one space-themed.

"We installed the new water system to alleviate traffic flow on campus," said Associate Vice President for Facilities Services John P. Wiltenburg, III as he stood at the top of the tropical slide and his speedo.

In addition to slides, other traffic alleviation additions include an escalator in the Bookstore, and a moving walkway.

"We wanted to attract students to our campus, and what better way to gain popularity then with an escalator in our bookstore," Hample said.

Hurley coined it best.

"It isn't about the academic ratings anymore," he said. "It's about what's cool, like escalators and Taylor Swift."

Administration took the day off so they could

move the crap load of textbooks across campus walk.

At approximately 11 a.m., President Judy Hample sat on the brick walkway and threw a Veruca Salt-like fit.

"I'm the President! This is my school. I want to go swimming now!" Hample announced to anyone in a one-mile radius.

What used to be a Ballroom equipped with a wood floor and no air conditioning is now a super-sonic UMW styled Chuck E. Cheese Ball room pit filled with inflatable balls for "relaxation and mental stimulation," said Hurley.

One student had a very negative Ball pit experience.

"I was trapped under six feet of tiny plastic balls for an hour," exclaimed sophomore Ryan Marr. "And then Judy 'the Rampage' had me belly-flopped on top of me!"

The Ballroom pit accepts EagleOne cards.

The Admissions office also received an entirely new look. In fact, the staff was sent to Barbados since Willy Wonka golden geese replaced each position.

"There was too much bias with people making the decisions, so we decided to make it more automatic," said somebody important. "The applicants are like Golden Eggs, and the bad ones are thrown into the trash chute."

Belly-flopping victim Ryan Marr was sent to



Lee Hall underwent renovations to make it more stylistically similar to Fredericksburg with the upcoming water park, Kalahari.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to deal with the trauma.

University Physician Dr. P. Thomas Riley explained some of the changes that have taken place at CAPS.

"We have many yoga mats," Riley said. "The kids need to learn how to channel their energies, and yoga mats give the appearance that we are

helping to achieve this energy balance."

Beyond the yoga mat station, is a pad-lock door that potential students cannot enter.

"This is where the real fun begins," said Riley, jumping onto a leather Lazy-Boy and turning on the 90" plasma screen television.

Other improvements include name-brand cough drops and flavored condoms.

## Letter to the Editor:

Dear Idiots,

Before I say anything, I just want you to know that I'm not attacking anyone personally.

That being said, you guys are idiots. I have been reading your newspaper for, like, a month now, and it's only got 12 pages. What's up with that? Seriously?

The Washington Post and the New York Times have tons of pages with puzzles and comics too.

I have written a, like, more than one letter to you idiots. Specifically addressed to Editor in Chief Elizabeth Nowrouz and lead reporter

Beef Treadwell. I have had no response.

Now I am writing this letter, which will probably not get published either.

I think you're dumb.

Also, Nowrouz has clubbed feet. I have photos.

I was so mad that I went to your advisor, a one Mike McCarthy, who is supposed to be, like, some big newspaper guy. And he said, "Bla bla, why don't you join the paper bla bla."

Okay, look. I don't have time for your stupid 12-page paper. I have,

like drinking and friends to do. I bet you don't even have friends. I bet you don't even know what drinking means. You probably think I mean drinking water or lemonade, but I don't unless that water or lemonade also has alcohol in it.

I don't care about my parents. I can drink and smoke without getting in trouble, and yes, I'm not afraid to say that, unlike you idiots.

Screw you guys.

Nobody thinks that you are cool or worth talking to.

*Biglips Jigglebutt is a Freshie*

## UMW's Top 5 Crappers

These toilets will have your cheeks toasty and leave you wanting more...or hopefully not.

By BEEF TREADWELL  
Poop Masta-flex

### 1) Seaco Basement

Nobody can dispute the atmosphere of old plumbing, sewage gases and roughly 60 years of poop. Among the many restroom on campus, the trusty old standby in the Seaco basement gets recognized not just for its spectacular atmosphere that leaves you in no doubt you are doing something foul, but for its sheer commitment to our waste. After gorging yourself on roast beef, relax in the caring arms of Seaco's basement bog and you'll know what I mean.

### 2) Russell/Jefferson Hall Communal Bathrooms

There's nothing quite like seeing more of your sweaty hall mate than you ever wanted to wake you up in the morning. Truly, the sights, sounds and smells of a hall bathroom make one feel what it is to be human in the most basic sense.



Courtesy summerlumps at flickr.com

These are truly the sanctuary of the solitary. Where better to channel

### 3) Third Floor Simpson Library

Only when you live around others in faith as well as cleanliness can you truly build community values.

### 4) Trinkle Basement

Another gem of the Eisenhower era, this marble and tile drop zone is reminiscent of a fallout shelter. This room, like the one in Seaco, offers a sense of protection. Where better, then, to ride out your darker moments knowing that soon it will all be over and you can re-emerge into the light of day?

### 5) Combs Hall

Any of the conveniences in this modern academic gem are guaranteed to make you feel like a king. Well-lit and cavernous, Combs' palatial facilities are always clean and well-supplied. Big mirrors facing the stalls provide reassurance that you're leaving the realm of privacy looking your best.

*Beef Treadwell, seen here in his favorite bathroom knows exactly where to go on campus when nature calls.*

**Hey Ladiez!**

**Do you enjoy Sexclamations?!**

**Well e-mail [hornyviewpoints@gmail.com](mailto:hornyviewpoints@gmail.com) to receive you FREE  
n00dz!!!!1!  
... Real Bullet staff's staffs. LOL**

## Getting Erections for the Elections

The elections have come and gone, but my hard-on remains. Democracy ranks a number four on my favorite things to gab about, just under the Beatles, pop culture icons and that crappy McCrap-bag ex boyfriend.

But anyway: Democracy!

According to my friend who once took a civics class, democracy was invented by America in 1776 as a way to keep ugly people from telling the rest of us what to do.

I happen to be something of a traditionalist despite my liberal hippy dietary habits, so I think democracy under this definition should remain as American as pizza or nachos.

Now, I'm sure that by now, some of you faithful readers, especially the ugly ones, probably think I'm a big stupid idiot.

I am. Don't you feel bad? I'm ugly too. I've got a **HUGE** nose. Seriously.

I've got a lazy eye, a bad haircut and I'm an amputee too. Just cause I don't want ugly people in charge doesn't mean I am not ugly myself. If I were attractive, that would be racist.

Elections have always been decided based upon attractiveness. Case in point: Obama.

Every time the president shows up, people stand, and then they sit back down right after, probably to hide their arousal. I know that's why I do it.



**Justinnigans**  
By Justinnah Clock,  
Stalker

The recent elections here at UMW were kind of pathetic. People are so unattractive here that the ballots for SGA and JRB had to be sent electronically to every mailbox just so that the lazy lards Os don't have to do more than click a maximum of 12 to participate in democracy.

How much more unimportant can these people's faces be?

I, having a fetish for democracy, looked up every single one on facebook.com to see if they have crooked teeth.

All I know is that electing student leaders based upon popularity will ensure that the attractive, large-breasted, giggling models will remain in a position where I can view them easily and from behind cover.

This is a good thing.

And for those of you who believe that positions of merit, that require dedication and responsibility should be appointed by those who know best how the job needs to be done, and who is most qualified... you people need to remember just how expensive pornography can be.

Attractive officials are like soft-core with clothes.

Everyone else, no matter how much experience, talent, drive or knowledge they have just do not have a right to student positions here, there or anywhere they can be seen.

My opinion is final, and therefore it is law.

## I Hope This Goes in the Polemic

By Punk-Ass Dope Fiends

Total dweeb considers his next word choice. That was more exciting than retirement home BINGO. Pink flamingos dance-fly in a narcoleptic mind device. Memoirs of pepper jar. Every line ends in period-o. This is meta-writing. OMG...just broke the box. This is the future. This is the past. This is repetition. This is the Polemic. Everyone else is faux. My Boyfriend died to me...in my heart-ton. Hardy-har-heart. You laugh. I cry. Because you never saw with your eye How much I cry that you can't hear With your stupid, wrinkly old-guy ear That I was the best thing to happen to your year. Do you remember that night? I don't. I want to see your birth control. Control. Control. See? I left you. You can't (birth) control me. Control. Please cure this man-baby. A Burp'll make him less purple. Total dweeb considers his next Full Circle.

# Entertainment

## UMW Theater Revisits the 1800's

By KATIE ROBINSON  
Staff Writer

A Klein Theater production, set in a time far from the minds of our contemporary students offers an intriguing story about love, money, and the ways of the world. "The Heiress" by Ruth and Augustus Goetz, based on the Henry James novella, *Washington Square*, is presented by The University of Mary Washington Theatre and Dance department and opens Thursday, April 2 and runs Thursday through Sunday April 12.

Students will be hard pressed to find a more absorbingly elegant performance than this. Executed at a high level of detailed sophistication, this alluring story set in 1850 tells of a young girl who comes to discover that love is not always what it seems.

Miss Catherine Sloper, our naïve heroine, falls desperately in love with Morris Townsend, a seemingly genuine man whose motivations lie in the fortune Catherine stands to inherit from her father, the dourly protective Dr. Sloper.

Director Professor Helen Housley, not wanting to give away the end of this darkly fascinating story says that, "at first glance 'The Heiress' seems to be a romance but the turns and twists of the plot make it something very different."

Adding to this captivating story, the lavish cos-

tumes and scenery beautifully articulate this pre-civil war era and will undoubtedly leave the audience romantically enchanted.

One of the elements in this play that distinguishes it from other productions is the attention to historical accuracy. As Professor Housley explained, "the students have really had to put themselves into the 19th century. They have had to learn behaviors and mannerisms very foreign to modern students; re-learn modes of walking and talking. It is essentially the Gone with the Wind look." However, even with this distinction the play remains very accessible to today's audiences.

the Wind look." However, even with this distinction the play remains very accessible to today's audiences.

coats, bloomers, boots, huge skirts, hoops, we have to work with them, and they have to become part of us."

Maggie Bausch, a junior playing the role of Aunt Lavinia Penniman, said that due to the costumes, "the girls in the cast have bonded really well because we have an extra half an hour where we get corseted up."

For most the remarkable costumes, charming set, and talented cast would be more than enough to entice students to see this splendid production but on top of all that the story itself as Lewis says, "will leave you with intriguing unanswered questions, for a period piece it is really exciting and has a gripping ending." "The Heiress," says Housley "will be both visually and emotionally stunning."

Another challenge associated with this time period is costuming. "The introduction of the hoop skirts was a fun moment. The girls need about a 4 foot clearance on both sides of them as well as have to maneuver a set. It was also challenging for the men as they had to keep their distance but they have all adapted very nicely" said Housley.

Playing the role of Catherine, sophomore Cassandra Lewis also discussed the costuming. "the beautiful corsets, layers of petti-

coats, bloomers, boots, huge skirts, hoops, we have to work with them, and they have to become part of us."

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**The Heiress opens tonight in Klein Theater with showings Thursday through Sunday until April 12. Tickets are available in the Klein Theater box office**



Image courtesy of UMW Theater

# 'Flight of the Conchords' Lands

## Hipster HBO Sitcom May Be Over, But Musical Act Continues

By ALEX CULBRETH  
Staff Writer

HBO's *Flight of the Conchords* aired its series finale last week, ending a mere two-year run of the hilarious show.

The series gained only minor mainstream success and remained an underrated musical and comedic highlight amid HBO's original series, despite its rabid cult following.

These fans will be disappointed by the show's early departure, while the general public remains largely ignorant of the show or the real-life band. Either way, *Flight of the Conchords* has taken its final flight.

The series follows the band, a folk duo from New Zealand, from one terrible gig to another in New York City. The show mostly deals with the culture shock experienced by band members Bret and Jemaine as they make the transition from a being a relatively unknown band in New Zealand to a completely unknown band in New York.

The show also focuses on Murray, the band's clueless and unsuccessful manager, as well as Mel, the band's only obsessive fan.

Though the humor is mostly subtle, the topics range from poking fun at David Bowie to refer-

lessly making fun of Australians, who are to New Zealand what the U.S. is to Canada. Most of the hilarity stems from Bret and Jemaine's dry delivery of lines in thick New Zealand accents. In one memorable episode, Murray, the band's manager, Jemaine a cassette with a bucking track on it before quipping, "Be careful with it. Don't stand next to any big magnets."

In another

episode, Jemaine introduces his new Australian girlfriend to Bret and Murray.

They proceed to mock her in a heavy

Australian accent when



Image courtesy of wordpress.com

she says, "My mum says I sound like Marilyn Monroe." Murray replies under his breath, "Yeah, if you squint your ears."

Each episode is a musical comedy in which the storyline is habitually interrupted to showcase a semi-music video of an original song by the band.

In one episode, Bret is feeling depressed after Murray mocks his appearance.

Jemaine sings him a song he wrote called "Bret, You Got It Goin' On" to make him feel better.

"Why can't a heterosexual guy tell a heterosexual guy that he thinks his booty is fly?/

Not all the time, obviously, just when he's got a problem with his self esteem/

Don't let anybody tell you you're not humpable, because you're bumbapable/

Well, I hope this doesn't make you feel uncomfortable."

One of Bret's lines from the finale perfectly summarized the entirety of the series: it's the story of a band that "starts at the bottom, continues along the bottom, and ends up at the bottom."

The show ended with its characters still getting laughs out of the audience, which is ultimately better than dragging on in a *Seinfeld* or *Friends*-esque stretch in which the show has overstayed its welcome.

Though the show is over, the real-life band, Flight of the Conchords, is still making music and playing more respectable gigs than their television alter egos are accustomed to playing.

They will be releasing a new album April 15 and are starting a North American tour in April. The show may have taken its last flight, but the band is still flying.

# Don't Call it A Comeback (Seriously)

## Top 5 Resurrected Artists Who Should Have Stayed Dead

By JOHN SHERIDAN  
Staff Writer

### Michael Jackson

Who ever thought this man would see the light of day again after the past few years? I did, because he's insane. The entire world just wants to see him moonwalk and do that high-pitched "hoo-hoo" thing he does. No dangling babies out of windows, no playing with our kids at his fantasy-land ranch, no public speaking with a veil on.

I just want to see those moves, performed exactly like I used to see on television. But he's a decaying old zombie, you say? All the better for doing *Thriller*. If you didn't already, you know you should have, read Landon James' article in the March 26 issue of the *Bullet* for more info on this comeback.

### Flavor Flav

What do you do when your music career is over? In America, you get a spot on primetime cable. What do you do when you're the most dispensable member of Public Enemy? You wear a huge clock around your neck and become the comic relief. What do you do years after Public Enemy disbanded? You become the comic relief for all of America.



Image courtesy of threestrikeandout.com

### Axl Rose

Chinese Democracy, anticipated by many poorly-aging metal heads and ignorant shaggy-haired teens to be the White Album of rock and roll, was instead a thick slab of decent mediocrity slathered in Rose's self-righteousness.

Adding insult to injury, he tried to rock those little hair braids. That was cool for about a year,

possibly '89, and is also acceptable only for 13-year-old girls to have done at a *Wings* in Myrtle Beach.



Image courtesy of djays.com

### [Prince]

Specifically [Prince] when he changed his name to a symbol. I wish he had struck a deal with Microsoft to include a key for his name/symbol in every keyboard. That would make this article a lot easier. It's not a pseudonym, and it's not a real letter, but somehow it is phonetically pronounced "prince."

It's about a magical as his ability to get women.

He never needed a comeback, he just needed to sit on that big purple motorcycle and look ambigu-

ous.

### Vanilla Ice

The timeline of Vanilla Ice's success would look like the EKG of a man being defibrillated only once before the EMT realizes he is dead. That one point was "Ice Ice Baby." Van Winkle allegedly considered his early image to have been created and manipulated by his record label, and that it was not his own.

Apparently his real identity is a lot more like the Insane Clown Posse, but with less credibility. Since 1994 Van Winkle has released multiple hard-rock albums, with titles such as *Skabz* and *Bi-polar*, receiving equally appealing reviews. For Vanilla Ice, don't call it a comeback, because it never happened.



Image courtesy of mripolife.com



Image courtesy of michaeljacksonkingofpop.com

# Entertainment

## Ben Folds 'Fights It' in Dodd

By RYAN MARR  
Staff Writer

Prior to Monday night, I wasn't sure how I felt about attending Giant's Spring Concert Series featuring Ben Folds. Sure, the surprisingly dode-42-year-old is a reputable heavyweight when it comes to tickling the keys, but, stretched thin on just a few hours of sleep, I wasn't exactly keen on hitting up a piano recital.

Thankfully though, Folds pulled out all the musical stops— including audience sing-a-longs, a homemade synthesizer rigged together with Altoid cans, and a sentimentally valuable shaker—and even brought along a few friends to flesh out his sarcastically tinged piano balladry.

Even before Folds and company took the stage though, opening act Jukebox the Ghost, a D.C.-based piano-pop trio, lit up Dodd Auditorium with an explosive set of quirky adrenaline-fueled pop songs about the Apocalypse.

The unique pairing of guitarist Tommy Seigel's Book of Revelations-referencing lyrics with pianist Ben Thornewill's classically trained chords coupled with the group's penchant for theatrics fused into a contagious energy that set toes-tapping with more than just anticipation of Folds' arrival. Their secret?

"Vitamin B12," Seigel explained. "It's our crack-cockaine."

Despite a metal barrier and a small posse of sumo-sized, goatee-sporting bodyguards surrounding the band from the crowd, Jukebox the Ghost had nothing but praise for the enthusiasm of Mary

Washington's student body.

"The crowd was awesome. This was the first theatre-oriented show we've played on this tour where people in the auditorium actually stood up," Seigel said.

Yet by the time U.Va. a cappella group The Silhouettes harmonized and snapped their way through covers of Feist's "1234" and Seal's always relevant "Crazy," the crowd was growing restless again.

When Folds finally took the stage, knees bent poised like a sprinter in front of the grand piano, Dodd exploded into an uproar that didn't wane for an hour and a half.

During that time, Folds performed a refreshing mix of fan favorites ranging from world-weary, sad-bastard staples "Still Fighting It" and appropriately titled "Bastard" to ironic yuppie anthems "Rockin' The Suburbs" and "The Bitch Went Nuts."

As usual with Folds, the line between sincerity and sarcasm became indistinguishable. When Folds unknowingly hit a campus nerve by describing a song's protagonist as a conservative lawyer with an annoyingly talkative liberal girlfriend, the crowd seemed confused about whether to laugh or booo.

Folds, sporting a red pocket-tee and my grandfather's over-sized reading glasses, didn't seem to care one way or the other, delivering lines like "the bitch went nuts/ talking 'bout vegetables" with an endearingly smug self-awareness that only added humorous undertones to his band's already impressive musicianship.

Folds even adapted to his audience, grinning and nodding at the overly-enthusiastic head-bobbing in the front row while singing a line about pills that "make it possible for all white boys to dance."

But the high-point of the evening didn't arrive until Folds finally dropped the backing band and the irony for a dusting off of beloved Ben Folds' Five classic, "Brick."

Fold's heartfelt rendition marked the only point of the night in which the audience threatened to drown out Ben Folds' twin towers of amplification.

Sophomore Gregg Disalvo was particularly impressed with Fold's performance.

"Not only was he a great performer, but he was quick on his feet. I almost felt like there was a plant in the audience," Disalvo said, referring to Folds' impromptu rendition of "Free Bird" at an audience member's suggestion.

Gradually warming up to the crowd, Folds' humor grew in inverse relation to his tatted, gum-chewing bassist-foil, who, by the end of the concert, was blowing bubbles with the bored disinterest of a middle school delinquent.

Folds, on the other hand, was pacing feverishly across the stage by the grand finale, conducting the audience through a three-part vocal harmony with



Samantha Daniel/Bullet

the wild abandon of a cracked-out high-school band director.

Granted, Folds may have sprouted a few gray hairs in the years since he first rocked suburbs all over America, but if his performance on Monday was any indication, Ben Folds is totally "Still Fighting It."

## New DJs Keep the 'Beet' in Fredericksburg

By DAVID GALLAGHER  
Staff Writer



David Gallagher/Bullet

Juniors Ryan Payne and Kyle Meagher, better known as the Beetkeepers.

In the summer of 2008, a new Mary Washington musical act was born. After an inspiring late night show, Ryan Payne and Kyle Meagher, known professionally as The Beetkeepers, developed an enduring love for spinning. And not what your mom does with her friends on Saturday mornings, but what DJs do in dark clubs in New York City, Los Angeles, all across Europe, and now, in Fredericksburg, VA.

After seeing MSTRKRFT, an electric music duo at Bonnaroo Music Festival last June, Payne immediately borrowed a set of turntables from a friend and Meagher spent \$300 on a used set. The pair began practicing nonstop for the rest of the summer. Between the two, Meagher estimated they practiced close to six hours a day. "We went at it full force," Meagher recalled. "If you want something to be good, you have to work hard at it."

Over the fall semester, Meagher and Payne tried to play at house parties almost every weekend. At first, gathering a substantial fan base proved difficult.

Come hear the Beetkeepers at Great Hall tonight from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$4 in advance and \$6 at the door. All proceeds go to Invisible Children.

cult. Payne explained that their style of music can be difficult for some people to embrace. "It's not techno, it's electro," Payne explained. "Electro with punk and rap influences," says Payne. "But the whole point to get bodies moving."

Meagher describes the parties they play at as different from any other type of college party. "Instead of doing the same thing every weekend and having the same conversations, we decided to have a new kind of party," Payne continued. "And that's why we're different from a regular band. We're just like we're part of the party."

Because electro is considered by some a fringe music genre, especially at Mary Washington and in Fredericksburg, Meagher and Payne have had to concentrate on making their music accessible to the casual dancer that attends their shows or parties. Payne explained that in order to keep people comfortable, you have to mix in parts of songs that most people recognize, such as popular rap or hip-hop

songs. This spring, Payne and Meagher have made some large strides. They've started going by the name The Beetkeepers and have been playing a few fundraiser shows in Great Hall. Their first Great Hall show, Ruck and Roll, was a men's rugby fundraiser in January and was a big success. Their followup show, The Romance Rave, was a Valentine's Day themed fundraiser for Invisible Children. The Beetkeepers were able to raise close to \$1000 for the non-profit organization.

"The thing I like about [playing in Great Hall] is the fact that they're a really safe alternative to off-campus parties," explained Meagher. While most of the house parties The Beetkeepers play at end up being ended by the Fredericksburg Fuzz because of noise complaints, playing at Great Hall provides a safe, controlled environment.

Meagher and Payne have plans of breaking into the downtown bar scene over the coming months and the fall semester including at the Bourbon Room and the soon to be opened University Cafe. Payne also cited the newly renovated Underground in Lee Hall as a perfect, intimate setting for their shows in the future.

"[Our style] is something new and fun," says Meagher. "You have to be open minded, and if you give it a chance, you'll probably like it."

## Hot Mess at the D.C. Maryland Virginia Awards

By MARY TURNER  
Staff Writer

The 3rd Annual D.C. Maryland Virginia Entertainment & Music Awards was advertised as the event of the year for underground artists in the area. With scandal and controversy surrounding the event and its sponsors, the event left many artists upset.

Despite the built up buzz, and a pre-event nominee party hosted by Target Squad at the largest nightclub in D.C. — Sunday's awards show was a hot mess. With a feeble attempt at a red carpet, unorganized seating, and a slew of production hiccups, the show ran about as smooth as kindergarten Christmas pageant.

Hosted by Onix from VH1's "I Love New York", and "I Love Money: Season 2," the highly anticipated pre-show event left much to be desired. Aside from Mya, Lil' Mo, Mambo Sauce, and Jon Boy from "The White Rapper Show", the crowd showed little excitement for the other artists who walked the 10 foot long "gold" carpet.

Inside the Hampton Conference Center, VIP tables were decorated nicely; however it didn't take long to turn that into a mess as well. Within the hour, the tables were covered with business cards, demos, and flyers. All the pre-show self-promotion helped push back the show by nearly two hours.

After a never-ending video montage of the nominees played on the large side screens, the audience was then treated to an offbeat, sloppy dance routine by the dance troupe Dynamic. One of the dancers from Dynamic admitted backstage that he had just learned the steps to the dance the night before, and it showed.

The show then hit another bump when a poor audience reaction to the hosts, DJ Rico and Lil' Mo, inspired the pair to turn around and do-over their entrance, only this time directing the audience to "make some noise."

The first three awards of the night went to DJ Heat of WPGC, for Most Supportive Radio Personality, Media Person, and DJ. A brief chant from the general admission seating area to "play us the radio" erupted immediately after the awards were presented.

DMV EMA winner and A&R for Warner Music Group.

In an attempt to "kash" in on the DJ's popularity, the awards show's producer, Mahogany Jones, tried to pressure Monee into "donating" over three thousand dollars to broadcast the



R&B singer Mya presents an award at the annual D.C. Maryland Virginia Entertainment & Music Awards.

DJ Kash Monee, CEO of WKSH, adamantly rejected the idea of DJ Heat winning the awards.

"DJ Heat doesn't even play or support underground artists in the DMV," he said. DJ Kash Monee, whose three radio stations reach over a million listeners daily, is a previous two-time

event live.

DJ Kash Monee said in a post-show interview that he would never agree to "pay for his right to freedom of the press." Monee also put a station wide ban on any coverage of the DMV EMAs.

The DMV Entertainment & Music Awards,

founded by Brother Maniac, is intended to honor and recognize outstanding artists who maintain residency in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. However, when local artists realized that many of the sponsors, like Brother Maniac and Mahogany Jones, were nominated and/or won, they spoke out against it.

Pre-show host, Onix, said that "the underground hip hop community here in the DMV needs to take a lesson from the rock music community; they need to start legitimately supporting each other."

Jazzy B, CEO of Battle Music Group also said, "Sponsors should absolutely not be nominated."

Jazzy B, who was nominated for Best Manager, said that an award loses its legitimacy when people think it has been bought.

Producer of the year nominee, Text Sosa disagreed, saying that many of the artists who are nominated have the funds to sponsor the event because "they grind harder than everyone else." Sosa said that just because a nominee is a sponsor, that does not mean they don't deserve to win.

On the other hand, several non-sponsoring artists, like Shy Thoro, La Vie, and Dre all day in the paint, were loudly applauded and supported as they accepted their awards.

Best Producer of the year, X-Quiz, received an especially large applause. Having had supplied many in the room with beats last year, X-Quiz was clearly a fan favorite.

"He makes some of the hottest beats in the DMV" said Phryme, a well known female MC and Detroit Native. After touring for the last year, Phryme said she looks forward to releasing new singles produced by X-Quiz this summer.

Around 1:00 am, the last of the awards were handed out, and while the event provided an opportunity for underground artists to meet-and-greet prominent industry figures in the area, the usefulness of the event amounted to little more than a reunion for most.

# Features

## Shanty-Town Goes Global

By ELISE MINNICK  
Staff Writer

After living in boxes for a week, seniors Courtney Hayes and Erin Kelly had reason to start raising money.

But not for themselves.

Hayes and Kelly were recognized for their efforts in UMW's \$2 A Day Challenge by the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) at The University of Texas in Austin February 13 – 15.

"We are changing fundraising methods—this is the new Walkathon," added Hayes.

The girls were recognized for their work in the Poverty Alleviation sector of CGI U.

"One-half of the world's population lives on two dollars a day or less," Hayes said, explaining the cause for their initiative.

The \$2 A Day Challenge is a yearly event in which University of Mary Washington students live for five days on \$2 a day or less.

"[It's] an innovative program that goes to all schools," Hayes said.

The students live, essentially, the way a person in an impoverished country lives: they have to boil water to purify it before drinking it, are only allowed to have two outfits, and can only use electricity when the sun is up.

"The shantytown is hard to miss," Kelly said. "People want to know what is going on."

CGI U is an "information exchange for Poverty Alleviation, Human Rights, Education, Health, and Climate Change," according to Kelly.

The organization is a subset of the Clinton Global Initiative, which was created in 2005 for individuals and non-profit organizations that want to use practical goals to facilitate global change. CGI U focuses on students and youth organizations as a catalyst for global change and awareness.

According to Kelly, the conference featured "panel discussions with groups such as TOMS Shoes and Women for Women International."

The last day of the conference, the groups got to "do service projects in Austin and help the community there, which was interesting," according to

See STUDENTS, page 8 ▶



Courtesy of Melody Ain

Saturday night's cast of UMW's annual "Vagina Monologues" production pose in pink before the show, held in Monroe 104.

## Vaginas, Outspoken

By VIRGINIA SCOTT  
Staff Writer

Penises have an interesting, albeit somewhat positive reputation for the most part; phallic imagery runs rampant in literature. Freud's "Penis Envy" certainly has a reputation, the penis represents power, and it has penetrated many aspects of life other than sex.

Vaginas are the red-headed step-child of sexuality. Vaginas get a bad rap; they are smelly, hairy and inconvenient.

This consensus changed when Eve Ensler penned the Obie-award-winning "Vagina Monologues," and in turn motivated the UMW Vagina Monologues, now in its sixth year.

Sophomore Melody Ain, production manager, commented on the performance's outspoken material.

"Men often view the show differently. The subject material can be uncomfortable. At UMW, people don't always talk about female concerns."

Students audition for the event, and

chosen students each perform an Ensler monologue during the Friday and Saturday night performances.

Each year, the UMW's "Vagina Monologues" donates ninety percent of proceeds to a charity. This year, they donated approximately \$2,000 to Students Active For Ending Rape (SAFER), a student-run organization that started at Sarah Lawrence College in '05.

"We decided to donate to SAFER because of the sexual assault that happened earlier this year on campus," Ain said. "They never caught the man who did it."

SAFER is dedicated to helping students win definite improvements to their colleges and universities sexual assault prevention and response activi-

ties. "Awareness is pertinent to our campus," O'Connor said. "Assault is something that happens so often but people don't report it. We want to show people that things will get better and that we can move forward."

Within her monologues, Ensler presents monologues revealing how a woman finally became comfortable with her vagina, and

it was all because of a man who loved looking at it. He thought they were beautiful and she came to agree.

Eve interviewed every single kind of woman," Ain said about Ensler's drafting of the "Vagina Monologues."

"With all of these different women comes many different perspectives, and that makes the monologues more well-rounded."

Junior Katie O'Connor, who spearheaded this year's event, was satisfied with the outcome.

"It went pretty well," O'Connor said. "One setback was that it usually takes place in Great Hall, but it was booked every single weekend."

With the help of Cheap Seats, O'Connor booked Monroe 104 for the performance.

The actors made the most of the situation.

"The stadium stage helped," O'Connor said. "Everyone could see the girls, and they were able to make more eye contact with the audience."

O'Connor succeeds Deniz Soyer as UMW "Vagina Monologues" director and chair for the V-Day 2009 Committee.

"[She] showed me the ropes, how to direct and organize these events," O'Connor said.

See FEMINISM, page 8 ▶



Steve Watkins' daughter Claire joined her father for part of "Down Sand Mountain" reading on March 26 at Riverby Books.

## Watkins Wins the Kite

Professor reads a chapter from his newest children's book during a promotional event at Riverby Books.

By KJ ADLER  
Staff Writer

Six-year-old Claire Watkins introduced her father to the crowd with "A lot of kids might think my dad's book is boring, but it's not. It's really great."

Associate Professor of English Steve Watkins then read from a chapter of his book before answering a few questions and signing copies.

On March 3, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) announced that "Down Sand Mountain" had won the Golden Kite Award for fiction.

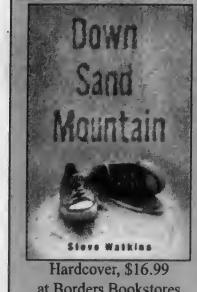
"I've done a number of readings and talks and signings for "Down Sand Mountain" already, and I'll be in Kentucky doing a book thing next month," Watkins said. "Then Florida a couple of times after that, California in August, some things back here in Virginia, and back down in Florida in the fall. But Riverby is always my favorite."

The Golden Kite Award is the only award presented to children's book authors and artists by their peers. The award includes a cash prize of \$2,500

and an expense-paid trip to Los Angeles to attend an award ceremony at the SCBWI Summer Conference in August.

With increased attention generating around his award-winning book, Watkins has high hopes for the future of his book.

Over 50 people gathered at the Riverby Bookstore March 26 to listen



Hardcover, \$16.99  
at Borders Bookstores

to Watkins read his award-winning young adult novel "Down Sand Mountain."

UMW students and Fredericksburg residents alike listened to Watkins read 12-year-old Dewey Turner's perspective on his town in Polk County, FLA., from the characteristics of the neighborhood kids to the history of the giant sand pile found at the edge of town, where kids could slide down on pieces of cardboard.

In the novel, Dewey must face issues concerning politics, racism and romance all the while dealing with the difficulties of growing up.

"I hope that "Down Sand Mountain" resonates with readers, and stays in print for a long time," Watkins said. "Beyond that, I want what any writer wants, I suppose: huge movie deal," he added with a smile.

Many aspects of the story in "Down Sand Mountain" have similarities to Watkins' own childhood. The town of Sand Mountain is a fictitious version of the small central Florida town Watkins lived in during the 1960s with a giant

See WATKINS, page 8 ▶

# Students Living on Little

◀ STUDENTS, page 7

Hayes.

Kelly applied for participation in the CGI U conference.

"There were 3000 applicants for the CGI U meeting," Kelly said. "Out of those, 1000 groups were selected, and 70 groups were awarded, and we were one of those 70 groups."

"I did not realize we were such a big deal," Kelly said in regards to their recognition at the conference. "People are more excited nationally than I thought they would be."

"We were there with schools and organizations sponsored by the Wal-Mart Foundation, the Dell Foundation, and Amnesty International, which was huge for us," she said.

"People were coming to us saying other people told them they 'had to see the \$2 A Day Challenge booth'; it was great to see the national interest in our organization," Hayes said.

The profits and donations that go to the \$2 A Day Challenge are sent to microfinance organizations. These organizations give small amounts of money to people in need, which then goes toward individual economic development, like starting a business.

These people learn to "become better on their own," according to Hayes, and eventually do not require any monetary assistance.



Courtesy of Courtney Hayes

CGI U recognized seniors Courtney Hayes and Erin Kelly for the UMW \$2 A Day Challenge.

"This is the first year the \$2 A Day Challenge has gone national, and now about 15 schools participate in it," Hayes said.

"Students are more aware of poverty," she added, which is why the group was recognized nationally.

Hayes explained that CGI U recog-

nized the \$2 A Day Challenge because the Challenge offers "every day solutions to major problems."

## Feminism for SAFER Charity

◀ FEMINISM, page 7

There were a few medical facts about the vagina given during the performance.

There was the "Vagina Happy Fact." It explained how the vagina has 8,000 nerve fibers in the clitoris, more than any concentration on the human body (male or female) and it is solely for pleasure.

Sophomore Becky Little fittingly ended the detail with, "Who needs a handgun, when you've got a semi-automatic?"

One monologue portrayed the character Miss Pat who lives in New Orleans. She reminiscences about the old days before the levee broke and Katrina came swirling in and took her community and lovable neighbors away.

Sophomore Taylor Roberts performed the monologue "The Flood," in which a woman becomes embarrassed and disgusted by her body's reaction to being aroused for the first time.

The Vagina Monologues encountered embarrassment, empowerment, loss of innocence in good and bad ways, the stereotypes of women, and all as-

pects of being a woman in this new, twenty-first century.

"The monologues explain what a woman goes through all the time, often speaking from the voice of her vagina," Ain said.

In the playbill, PRISM, assistant professor of English Gary Richards, professor of psychology Christopher Kilmartin, professor and chair of the theatre department Gregg Stull, and the UMW Sound Tech Crew were acknowledged in helping with the production.

The other ten percent of proceeds

from the production are sent to V-Day, which stands for Victory, Valentine, and Vagina, according to the event's website.

V-Day was generated by the "Vagina Monologues" and it is a global movement to stop violence and abuse of women and girls. In 2008, there were about 4,000 V-Day events that occurred around America and the globe.

For more information contact [www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org) or [www.safercampus.org](http://www.safercampus.org).

Additional reporting by Brittany De Vries

## This Week In Town

Friday

Dirty Rotten Posse

21+ Acoustic

10:00 p.m.

\$5

The Colonial Tavern,

406 Lafayette Blvd.

(540) 373-1313

Crown Vic

9:30 p.m.

\$5

The Loft, 1005 Caroline St.

[www.fredericksburg.com](http://www.fredericksburg.com)

Saturday

Seamus Kennedy  
Irish Singer/Comedian

9:00 p.m.

\$10

The Colonial Tavern 406  
Lafayette Blvd.

Shelf Life Band

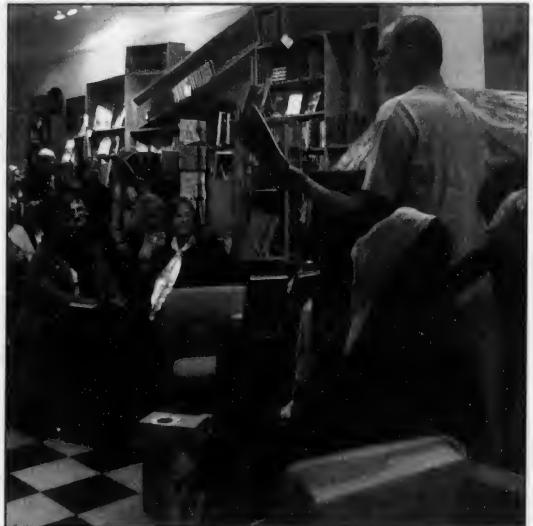
21+

9:30 p.m.

\$5

QBalls 960 Bragg Rd.  
[www.myspace.com/qballcafe](http://www.myspace.com/qballcafe)

## Award-Winning



Miles Dumville/Bullet

Watkins won the Golden Kite Award for his newest book, "Down Sand Mountain." He will promote his children's book in Los Angeles this August.

◀ WATKINS, page 7

sand mountain made from sand discarded from phosphate rock in the extraction process. The racial issues, the family dynamics, and the geography described in the book are based on reality as well.

"My brother is pretty weirded out by the book and keeps asking me if certain things really happened, because he doesn't remember them if they did," Watkins said. "The older brother's name is Wayne in the story, and that's my brother's name as well in real life."

Along with experiencing growing success from critics and publishers on his work, Watkins has also received a great deal of support from his daughters Claire, 6, and Lili, 4.

"Claire has been carrying around a copy, with the Golden Kite sticker, and an article with pictures from the Free Lance-Star, and showing everybody who will listen," Watkins said. "She says her dad is her favorite author—she's actually read a hand full of pages and has some idea of some of the characters—and that's about the highest compliment I think I could ever get. Much better than any Golden Kite or Newbery."

Currently Watkins is working on another young adult novel called "Goat Girl," a contemporary piece with a 16-year-old female protagonist named Iris.

Goat Girl has already sold, and is scheduled for publication next year by Candlewick Press.

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# News

## Outside the Fence

Due to the amount of news articles this week, the *Bullet* is staying inside the fence this week. We will venture out again next issue.

## Star's Visit Angers Some Students, But Excites Others

◀ BROWN, page 1

versity Relations Wednesday morning to confirm Brown's visit.

"It was pretty joking," said Marty Morrison, assistant director of news and public information at UMW. "It's my first day on the job, and I definitely wasn't expecting a call from Access Hollywood."

The story posted on PerezHilton.com, a widely read gossip site, prompted several comments from readers regarding the impromptu basketball game. One anonymous commenter under the name "m'dublove" stated that "UMW is a not a well-known university, and we hope people hearing he was on our campus does not damage our reputation. UMW is a primarily female university and we do not support him or his actions."

Junior Hassan Abdelhalim passed out ribbons to students watching the game in support of White Ribbon Week, a campaign against violence toward women sponsored by the Virginia Department of Health that coincidentally fell this week.

"I didn't go up in [Brown's] face or anything," said Abdelhalim, who is chair of the White Ribbon campaign. "That's not what this is about. I wanted to use this opportunity to spread awareness about violence against women."

When asked, Hairston said he was unsure if Brown's appearance was good

publicity for Mary Washington.

"It was just a chance for Chris Brown to blow off steam," he said.

Senior Matt Treacy, a former UMW basketball player, was on the court for the first two pick-up games with Brown.

"Before the crowd got here, we were definitely playing more seriously," Treacy said. "Now that everyone's watching, we're pretty much just joking around on the court."

Treacy was also pleased that Brown's manager provided him and the other Mary Washington students who played with free bottles of Orange Gatorade, which Brown had his managers pick up after they mistakenly purchased Glacier Freeze.

"He's a real philanthropist," Treacy joked.

After three pick-up games, Brown remained on the court for about 15 minutes to take photos and sign autographs for fans.

Sophomore Elizabeth Reed was slightly disappointed with what she saw.

"He was shorter than I thought, and he had chicken legs. He wasn't very good at basketball either," she said. "He was still extremely attractive."

When asked his opinion of Goolrick Gymnasium, Brown responded with a joke:

"It sucks...just kidding, it's dope," he said with laugh.

*It's funny, because two hours ago, everyone hated him. Now, all the girls are lining up to get their picture taken with him.*

—Danny Kim

## Entourage Member Makes Potentially Offensive Comment

◀ COMMENT, page 1

Afterward, Dittiro and LaPerla waited in the line of autograph and photo-seekers to tell Brown what the man said.

"We told [Brown] the story, and I think he took it the wrong way at first," Dittiro said. Brown assured them that he had nothing to do with the comment, she added.

According to Dittiro, Brown thanked her and LaPerla for informing him about the comment and asked them to point out to his bodyguard which man made the comment.

The man, who claimed to be Brown's cousin, first gave his name to a Bullet reporter as Todd Lucas and later told the reporter that his name was actually Dodd Smith, saying the first name he gave was fake. There was no way to independently verify his identity. He characterized the incident as a misunderstanding.

"They misheard me," he said. "I said

that if I got them a picture with Chris Brown then I would get beaten up—not them. And I meant that security guards would do the beating up, not Chris."

He added: "I never said a woman-beater comment. It's not like that."

While Dittiro acknowledged that a misunderstanding is possible, she is still skeptical.

"He had said that he was the one getting beat-up, I don't think the people around us would have had the same reaction," she said.

Dittiro said that she is a fan of Chris Brown's music and does not hold the comments against him.

"I have no problem with Chris Brown," she said. "I have a problem with being insulted and offended."

After being made aware of the situation, Brown and his security guards were eager to clear the situation with the students and avoid negative publicity.

"I don't do negative," Brown said.

## Director of News and Public Information Says Goodbye

◀ MANNIX, page 1

contacted her about becoming Assistant Director of News and Public Information.

Singleton remembered Mannix from her work as a student writer in his office, and was glad that she accepted the position.

Mock, who also worked under Singleton, called Mannix her "Eagle-ling" as a student during her farewell Tuesday. Another well-wisher responded, "Well, she has to leave the nest eventually."

Vice President of Admissions Marty Wilder said that he plans to advise President Judy Hambleton to wait on hiring a replacement for Mannix until the overseeing position, vice president for advancement and relations, is filled.

"Ideally, it'd be nice to have the new VP named because the position Teresa is vacating will fall under him or her," said Wilder.

Mannix applied for the Georgetown position after reading about it in the *Washington Post*.

"It seemed like a really good opportunity and just such a perfect fit for what I'm doing here already. It just kind of sounded too good to be true," Mannix said.

She was attracted to an organization similar to that at Mary Washington where one director oversees many others, who communicate information with specific departments or purposes.

"It took everything I love about what I do here, and built off of it," she added. "To be able to focus on media relations, which is really my background...to be able to write again—I'll be writing a lot more in this new position—it's just a really good fit."

Outside of the campus-wide emails, Mannix supervises the web master for umw.edu. She writes and edits the "Get Recognized" advertised on the front page.

Occasionally, she writes for the alumni magazine as well. Mostly, she enjoys getting information and writing it up like a news release like she does for the campus-wide emergency communications.

Mannix wrote the initial e-mails about former President Bill Frawley and the assault in both the battle-fields and the parking garage, which were sent to inform the community.

"I like writing, but I don't like bad news coming out. If I could say I never had to do it again, that'd be great," she said.

Shortly after she graduated, Mannix worked at the Alexandria-based newspaper, the *Sunday Journal*, now the *Examiner*. Her editor, Gill Golden, was also a UMW alumna.

"I really thought I wanted to go out and be a journalist, and then I think it was the circumstance I was in at the newspaper I worked at briefly...it was mostly copy editing and layout and design," she said.

Around that time, she married her high school sweetheart, Mark Mannix. They had dated long-distance between northern Virginia and Fredericksburg.

Mark, a horticulturist, works only a little farther from their home in Bristol, Va. than his wife.

He has brought his work into their home by way of a porch-grown herb garden.

"We have a townhouse with no yard, but we have the prettiest deck," Mannix said. She hopes that one day they'll have a house with a yard to plant a proper garden.

Though it isn't what she'd originally planned, Mannix is pleased with her career path.

"This is the perfect mood for me, even though I spent all that time studying to be a journalist," she said. "I think I do prefer this instead of working weird hours on a newspaper."

Mannix received a self-designed master's degree in communications

and public relations from George Mason University while working for UMW in 2007.

During an undergraduate internship at the *Washington Times*, Mannix realized she was the only intern not attending a college with a journalism program.

"I think having the well-roundedness from all the other classes I took—I had my writing background from [Steve] Watkins and the classes I took in the English department, but knowing about history and even political science, I actually had more context than the other reporters," Mannix said. "Having that broad knowledge also helped me as a journalist."

Watkins was her advisor while studying at UMW,

"I just learned so much about Journalism from Watkins," Mannix said, recalling fondly Watkins' pop-quiz Associated Press Style Bowls.

When asked what kind of student Mannix was, Watkins said "the best ever."

"The only problem was that she ran cross country and track," he said. "I kept having to talk her out of it."

He never convinced her, though, because she ran all four of her undergraduate studies with Stan Soper, whom she still calls "Coach."

Mannix came to Mary Washington because she could create her own major in journalism and work on the *Bullet* to pursue her interest in news writing.

Beginning as the Business Manager of the *Bullet*, she began writing for the paper her sophomore year. Sometimes writing three stories a week, she quickly became News and then Associate Editor by her senior year.

"I'll miss the *Bullet*. I mean, I slept on that same nasty couch...it's shared experience," Mannix said. "The *Bullet* was basically my life for three years."

## Over 200 Students May Have Experienced EagleLink Failure

◀ EAGLELINK, page 1

"There were no real crises that I know of that we weren't able to resolve," he said.

Still, many students like Taggart, who is a political science major, saw classes that they needed or wanted full up before they could register.

"Two (classes) I know there were before 8 a.m. registration," she said. "I'll probably get what I want anyway, but my first week will be really stressful going to eight different classes and trying to force-add."

Dolan said that students do not have many options beyond attempting to force-add classes or wait

for other students to drop. However, students may contact the Office of the Registrar for help with their schedules and registration if necessary.

"We're here to help," he said.

Once the Department of Information Technology has determined the cause of the failure, planning to prevent similar issues can go into place.

"We have several contingency plans in place, but those are often invoked when systems go down or are unavailable for a majority of students," James Webb said. "We will be working within IT, with the Registrar's Office, and with other groups to determine the best steps to prevent future registration issues."

## Smoking Banned in Restaurants

◀ SMOKING, page 2

whether or not allow a legal product in their business."

Mary Washington was one of 107 schools that participated in a national survey that measured the number of college students who were smokers.

According to the American College Health Association's National College Health Assessment report for spring 2007, about 18 percent of the students surveyed had smoked at least one day in the past month. If the statistics were applied to UMW, that would equal about 720 smokers.

However, according to Chris Porter, director of Residence Life, only 44 students indicated on their housing contracts for fall 2008 that they were smokers, meaning that the numbers at Mary Washington may be much smaller than what the national statistics suggest.

For Dandrea, who classifies herself as a smoker, she can live with the Indoor Clean Air Act, "as long as they don't ban smoking everywhere."

## Student Government Association Elections Results

SGA President: Sam Miller

SGA Vice President: Hassan Abdekhalim

JRB President: Brian Demott

JRB Vice President: Emily Potosky

ICA President: Ryan Gallash

ARH President: Kyle Hoffman

CSA President: Daniel Kauffman

DUC Chair: Joe Buonannata

AAC Chair: Nick Jesionka

LAC Chair: Sam Bradshaw

Media Chair: Enser Cole

Finance Committee: Waqas Humayun

# What's Up In Campus Dining?



## Get To Know Us!

### Meet Joe Shamp - Utility Worker

Joe has been with UMW Dining Services for about ten years and is one of the most loyal and dedicated members of our team. As a member of our utility crew, Joe spends a lot of time behind the scenes in the Seacobeck kitchen keeping our food preparation areas clean and ready for service. But students will recognize Joe as the friendly guy who works at the tray return stations, refills the milk dispensers, or rushes to the rescue when somebody drops a plate full of food on the floor! He is also on hand for just about every big event - like graduation picnics. You'll find him setting up tables, delivering ice, assisting with food deliveries, and taking on just about any task that will help ensure a wonderful dining experience for our guests. When asked what he likes best about his job Joe simply said, "the people" - his co-workers and our guests. When he's not working Joe likes to take walks on hiking trails, or just stroll around the many shops in Fredericksburg. If you happen to see Joe the next time you're out and about downtown, be sure to say "hello"!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

April is "Celebrate Our Environment" Month

Help Us Reduce Food Waste! Take All You Wish, But Eat All You Take!

April 6: 1950's Rock & Roll Dinner in the Washington Diner, 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM  
Enjoy great rock & roll music, classic American menu features, and prizes!

April 8 & 10: Discovery Day & Destination Day - We will have many campus visitors for lunch at Seacobeck. To avoid crowds, students may want to eat later (after 1 PM) or at the Nest.



Details about all events are available on our dining web site  
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## Peace Corps on campus

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**Saturday, April 4**

Information Table

19th Annual Multicultural Fair - Ball Circle

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Thursday, April 16**

Information Session

Woodward Campus Center-Meeting Room 4

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

For more information contact:  
Jessica Koehler at 202-692-1045  
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## Inauguration of President Judy G. Hample

Friday, April 3

Eighth President of the University of Mary Washington  
Installation Ceremony 3:15 P.M. in Dodd Auditorium-Ticket Required  
Call 654-1301 for more information.

### Related Events

Thursday, April 2

Great Lives Inaugural Lecture on James Farmer by Dr. Raymond Arsenault,  
professor of Southern History, University of South Florida  
7:30 P.M. in Dodd Auditorium; Free and open to the public

Thursday, April 2

Lecture: *Korean Culture Through the Lens of Traditional Costumes*  
President Hwa Jin Shim of Sungshin Women's University  
5:30 P.M. in Trinkle Hall, Room 204; Free and open to the public

## The Bullet

### The University of Mary Washington's Award-Winning Newspaper Publication Dates / Advertising Rates

#### Publication Dates for Fall 2008:

August 28  
September 4, 11, 18, 25  
October 2, 9, 23, 30  
November 6, 13  
December 4

#### Available Sizes:

1/8 page (5.75" wide x 5.25" tall)  
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1/2 page (11.5" wide x 10.5" tall)  
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\*All sizes are approximate.

Classified Ads: Ads cost \$1 per word for any advertiser that is not associated with the University of Mary Washington. For those associated with the college, the cost is \$.20 per word.

Please Note: To be considered for publications, *all advertisements must meet the specified dimensions.*  
Please observe the ad sizes. **No modifications will be made.**

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12 insertions	\$672.00	\$1,056.00	\$1,680.00	\$2,880.00	20%

For those affiliated with the University of Mary Washington~

	1/8 page	1/4 page	1/2 page	Full page	Discount
1 insertion	\$59.50	\$93.50	\$148.75	\$255.00	15%
4 insertions	\$224.00	\$316.80	\$504.00	\$864.00	20%
6 insertions	\$315.00	\$495.00	\$787.00	\$1,350.00	25%
12 insertions	\$588.00	\$924.00	\$1,470.00	\$2,520.00	20%

#### Contact Information:

##### *The Bullet*

Attn: Mike Downey  
1301 College Avenue  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
Phone: 540-654-1153  
Fax: 540-654-1072  
E-Mail: [mdowney2@umw.edu](mailto:mdowney2@umw.edu)

# Sports



## Boxing Rumble Coming To UMW

By TRICIA CALLAHAN  
Staff Writer

"Don't cheat yourself," Coach Jay said. "Beat yourself," added advisor Steve Williams. The University of Mary Washington's Boxing Club is ready to show the university what they are made of.

Club president Mike Gionfriddo and co-president Matt Pares built the club from the ground up finding Jay, a former Army boxer, and Williams, an instructor for KO Kids Boxing, to help them push themselves to a brand new level.

Fat Joe's "Lean Back" played in the background while students stretched, wrapped their hands, and started jumping rope to warm up for practice.

Four girls were there to brave it against the group of guys. Some of them were there for the intense work out while others, like Ashley Post and Jackie Reed, were there for the fight that is quickly approaching.

"I do it for the great physical training" said Cory Yeago, who went on to say that the training there helps with every sport you can possibly participate in.

Soon enough the practice was in full swing with warm up exercises intended to kill. Full of high knees, intense cardio and an exercise called the pork chop, the boxers were sure to be sore afterwards.

ward.

The punching bag and the speed bag were set in the right hand corner as people took turns beating them with reckless thrusts of aggression.

"I was thinking about my opponent" Abbas Haider said after an intense battle with the punching bag.

Those standing in line didn't waste their time, practicing their punches and footwork, showing off shadowboxes of offensive and defensive combinations in the mirror.

"Don't cross your feet up," said advisor Williams. While doing this, boxers' heads would scoot from one side to the next letting out tiny bits of air each time like the hiss of a balloon being deflated.

After the warm up everyone suits up into his or her headgear being sure to secure the Velcro below the chin and the mouth piece before emerging in the middle of the circle. The spars consisted of multiple unruly blows to the head and stomach.

"[I] Felt like I was going to vomit, almost forgot to fight" said Pares after sparring with Gionfriddo.

Coach Jay would pound the floor each time there was a rotation and people switched partners accordingly.

Sweat was something that every member had in common as the two-hour practice came to a

close. Those who didn't have mouth guards had to beat themselves for it, lifting their arms to their head and pounding down on their stomachs. After this "punishment" the team linked arms and rose and fell continuously like a loaf of bread in the oven.

"The goal of the team is to fight other schools," Gionfriddo remarked.

The team is excited about "Fight Night," which is going to be April 17. The tickets will be \$3 in advance and \$5 at the door.



Courtesy Clint Offen

**Boxing club member Matt Pares (middle) gets help from club advisor Steve Williams (right) and member Jackie Reed (left).**

## UMW Splits Wesley Doubleheader

By SARAH ALVAREZ  
Staff Writer

The University of Mary Washington men's baseball team took on Wesley College in a critical Capital Atlantic Conference doubleheader this past Sunday. The doubleheader brought the two closely seeded teams in the field with a sense of great anticipation. After a sloppy loss to the Wolverines in the first game, 8-4, the Eagles were able to claw back later in the day with a walk-off 3-2 victory.

Even after a 12-1 rout over Wesley earlier in the season, the Eagles set out on Sunday with no preconceived notions of guaranteed victory.

"Every conference game is a big game, no matter who we play," sophomore pitcher John Micsioca said. "Knowing we were playing a conference team that day made everyone want to score more runs."

Now at an integral point in the season, some players described the game's implications with a make-or-break kind of intensity. With a record not revealing their true potential the team came out on Sunday with a concrete goal for the game and season.

"We realize what we have to do to get where

we'd like to go, now it's just a matter of executing on the field," junior catcher Nick Espinosa said.

The Eagles came out with a quick run in the first inning; while the Wolverines remained without a run until the third. During the third inning the Wolverines turned up their offensive game; scoring a few key runs. However the Eagles quickly fought back, picking up the game tempo defensively.

Sophomore outfielder Jackson Clement made a good catch to halt the advancing Wolverines three run streak. The Eagles were not able to convert offensively leading to the swift end of the third. After the third inning, the Wolverines seemed to gain momentum propelling them to score three more runs in the fourth.

Senior pitcher Wes Hayden was on the receiving end of an eight-run barrage by the Wolverines though four runs were unearned due to poor defense by the surrounding Eagles.

"We also made errors that they took advantage of," senior pitcher Andrew Cox said. "I'm pretty sure we outhit them, but they scored when they needed to and we left too many ducks on the pond."

"In the first game we made a few errors, and they made a few clutch hits," Micsioca said. "...We couldn't buy a clutch hit."

The Eagles were finally able to make a strike at the Wolverines' pitching when they scored three runs in the bottom of the third. However, their efforts came too little too late after a scoreless seventh finalized an 8-4 Eagles' loss.

With a revitalized sense of confidence and level of intensity unrivaled by the first game, the Eagles came back in game two to prove their first match up with the Wolverines earlier in the season was not a fluke.

"Coach Fitt lit a fire under us," Cox said.

"There was a sense of urgency, good pitching, defense, and [we] made timely hits."

Two critical runs by sophomore Eric Rheebein contributed to the three total runs against the wolverine defense. One of Rheebein's crucial runs was assisted by a timely base hit to ignite the team's momentum.

"But the biggest [turning point] had to be when [we] hit the game at two in the sixth inning of the second game," Espinosa said. "When Will Wright got a base hit to center field and drove in Eric Re-

bein."

Then in the seventh inning with the game knotted up at two a piece, the Eagles' offense surprised the Wolverines with a stolen second base and base hit that drove freshman, outfielder Jeff Zeisler home. Espinosa's game winning hit was what allowed Zeisler's drive home and the eventual 3-2 victory.

"It's great being able to celebrate a 'W' with your team after a game like that," Espinosa said. "Everybody on the field played hard, everyone on the bench was into the game, and everybody deserves credit for that win."

After a struggle to gain momentum earlier in the day, the Eagles struck back in the second game to pull out a well-fought victory.

"Hopefully this come from behind win will jump start our season and we can get hot at the right time, going into the conference tournament," Micsioca said. "We are a better team than our record shows, we have two great senior pitchers and leaders, and an array of offensive weapons that when they get hot, it is nearly impossible to get them out, I know, they have lit me up in the intersquads in the fall."

## Cubs Look To End 101 Year Curse

By NICK NELSON  
Staff Writer

• **MLB, page 16**

**AL Central**

**Detroit Tigers:**

Remember these guys? The Tigers were picked by many to win it all in 2008, only to never quite catch ground and finish a very disappointing 74-88, last in their division. Maybe it was injuries, maybe it was bad luck, but they will not issue a repeat performance in 2009. Their lineup is solid front to back, with the run-scoring machine Curtis Granderson hitting leadoff and playing a strong defensive centerfield, 2008 AL homerun champ Miguel Cabrera batting fourth and playing first and the always-reliable Magglio Ordonez playing right field. The pitching has the opportunity to be strong if staff ace Justin Verlander can rebound from his 11-17 season a year ago and if Armando Galarraga can prove his rookie season was no fluke. Other than that, with Dontrelle Willis and Jeremy Bonderman beginning the season on the disabled list and the retirement of the Kenny Rogers the Tigers will be looking for guys to step up this year. A shakily bullpen in general could lead to the team's demise, but the skill level there brings to the table is too good to be ignored.

**Cleveland Indians:**

These guys will be good, but how good they are very well may rely solely on Cliff Lee's ability to continue his dominance as the staff ace. However, even after Lee went 22-3 last year, the Indians were still looking up at the Twins and the White Sox with a .500 record. Fausto Carmona and Carl Pavano will need to step up and prove that they are healthy early in the year but you will have to excuse me if I don't have the sincerest confidence. Pavano hasn't pitched a full slate of games since 2004 and has a career win-loss record

that at 66-66 is shaky at best. They get help closer with the addition of Kerry Wood but the rest of the bullpen remains unchanged from a year ago. The hitting will improve with the addition of Mark DeRosa, but there may be too many questions here.

**Minnesota Twins:**

There is a lot that could go wrong here. Stud catcher Joe Mauer has had back problems that have gotten worse all spring, and will hold him out of the opening day lineup. New acquisition from the White Sox, Joe Crede, will also bring with him a reputation for time on the DL, as he has only played a combined 144 games in the last two seasons. They're a strong, consistent team, but everything has to go right for them to compete.

**Chicago White Sox:**

Strong starting pitching and a lineup full of sluggers will keep these guys in games. However, Paul Konerko and Jim Thome are not getting any younger and will be injury risks all season because of it. Add in the fact that their second and third basemen had a combined 39-at-bats in 2008 along with a leadoff man who hit .248 in 129 at bats last year and there is very little to be confident in with the team's demise, but the skill level there brings to the table is too good to be ignored.

**Kansas City Royals:**

You know it is the start of a new baseball season when the Royals are projected to be just as bad as they were the year before. To their credit, however, it won't be entirely their fault in 2009. Everyone around them with the exception of the White Sox will be getting better, and there's only so much you can do with a lineup that only has two guys that hit more than 20 home runs last year and no one crested the 100-RBI mark. They are getting better piece-by-piece, but this will be yet another year of cellar-door baseball for the Royals.

**NL Central:**  
Chicago Cubs:

101 Years. The Billy Goat. Curses. Cubs fans know these terms well, and they're sick of hearing it. It has been a long, long time since the Cubs last won the World Series, the longest championship drought in any sport. However, the 2008 lineup will be just as dangerous as 2008, despite the loss of the play-everywhere Mark DeRosa. As long as everyone stays healthy, especially new acquisition and injury risk Milton Bradley, look to the Cubs to win their third straight division title and, possibly, break the curse.

**St. Louis Cardinals:**

Any team with Albert Pujols and a healthy Chris Carpenter need to be seen as very dangerous. Ryan Ludwick came out of nowhere last year to hit .373 bombs and 113 RBIs, and should have the same level of talent in 2009. The starting pitching is stellar around Chris Carpenter, with Adam Wainwright, Kyle Lohse, and Todd Wellemeyer all having solid arms. Look to these guys to be a sure fire contender for the Wild Card after a couple years without October play.

**Milwaukee Brewers:**

Speaking of October, the Brewers tasted it for the first time in 26 years after snagging the Wild Card and making it to the playoffs for the first time since 1982. However, that was with CC Sabathia and Ben Sheets on the mound, two players that cannot be counted on this time around. Sabathia signed the fat contract with the Yankees and Sheets elected for shoulder surgery after not finding a team to latch on to during free agency. Prince Fielder and Ryan Braun will be offensive bright spots, but in terms of hitting, there is very little else to look forward too. New closer Trevor Hoffman is 41 and has already landed on the DL before the season has even started. Number-four starter

Braden Looper is having a terrible spring and new ace Yovani Gallardo threw only 24 innings last year but has unlimited potential and could have a breakout season. Hopefully the fans can thrive on sentiment alone, because the Brewers are not a playoff team in 2009.

**Cincinnati Reds:**

Five words will let these guys play spoiler in 2009: Joey Votto and Jay Bruce. The loss of Adam Dunn is going to hurt immediately, and other than Edinson Volquez the pitching could either be terrible or terrifying, but Votto and Bruce will be the silver lining in the annual Cincinnati Cloud. Look to Willy Taveras to have another dangerous season stealing bases, coming off a 2008 campaign where he swiped 68 bags. They'll be fun to watch, but won't manage to do much else.

**Houston Astros:**

This team is best described by saying "We're only in fifth because the Pirates are in sixth." This is a bad team in 2009. The days of Bagwell and Biggio are gone, and outside of Lance Berkman and Carlos Lee, the offense is fizzling at best. No one outside of starters Roy Oswalt and Wandy Rodriguez and lights-out closer Jose Valverde is a competitive pitcher, and can you really count on Ivan Rodriguez to be your starting catcher at 37 years old? Maybe next year, guys.

**Pittsburgh Pirates:**

The Pirates had a not-so-sweet 16 last year, 2008 marked their 16th straight losing season. There is not a single pitcher on the rotation with a winning record, their leadoff hitter had less than 1.75 at-bats last season, and their third baseman hit .166 in 2008. About the only way you may have heard of the Pirates in the news this off-season was prospect Jose Tabata's wife being charged with kidnapping.

# Sports

## Opening Day Three Days Away

By JOEY MERKEL  
Sports Editor

### AL East

#### Baltimore Orioles:

For the second year in a row, the Baltimore Orioles will most likely be looking up at the AL East from the basement. Right-fielder Nick Markakis and second baseman Brian Roberts, who both received big contract extensions in the offseason, anchor the O's line-up that, last year, was third in the AL in run producing before Sept. 1. Aubrey Huff will take over at first base this year and Luke Scott will become the club's designated hitter after the club's acquisition of former top prospect Felix Pie.

The O's glaring hole, as usual, is the rotation. With less than two weeks left until opening day, only Jeremy Guthrie and free-agent Japanese signing Koji Uehara has strongholds on rotation spots. After that Manager Dave Trembley brought a lot of arms in to spring training to compete but he has been disappointed thus far that no one has really stepped it up. One time top prospect Hayden Penn is still in the hunt for the rotation but he has no options left so if he doesn't make the team he'll have to be exposed to waivers if the Orioles want to send him to the minors.

Some say the bullpen could be in shambles but with the return of a healthy Matt Albers and Chris Ray, who has put up dominant numbers thus far in spring training, the bullpen could be one of the pluses on this club.

Though it would be near impossible for the Orioles to compete this year, they have done very well replenishing a once barren farm system. The O's drafted catcher Matt Wieters in 2007, who is now Baseball America's No. 1 prospect in the game, and Brian Matusz in 2008 who shined in a short stint during major league spring training camp. Jake Arrieta and Chris Tillman aren't far behind and will be a staple in the rotation for years to come.

2009 may be a wash for the Orioles, but they will certainly be turning heads in 2010.

### AL West

#### Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim:

The Angels are expected to start the season with starting pitchers John Lackey, Ervin Santana and Kelvyn Escobar all on the disabled list. Jered Weaver is not expected to be ready to throw on opening day, which leaves projected third starter Joe Saunders, who is rumored to be throwing with a "dead arm." They have a potent line-up but also one that is aging and often hurt. Torii Hunter is the Angels youngest outfielder at 33 and Vlad Guerrero, though he is a monster at the plate has shown declining speed and if you can believe it, may soon be a liability in the field.

#### Oakland Athletics:

The Athletics were busy early and often this off-season. General Manager Billy Beane acquired Matt Holliday from the Rockies and re-united Jason Giambi with the west coast. The A's have a sturdy line-up and catcher Kurt Suzuki is blossoming into a talented, well-rounded everyday player. The projected rotation includes Justin Duchscherer, who broke out last year as a fantasy stud, but he is scheduled to start the season on the DL and it is there is not much of a timetable for his return. Beane, who has always understood the importance of a farm system, will try to send out top prospects Brett Anderson

and Trevor Cahill to the mound and hope for early success. The Athletics success this year will contingent upon their young pitchers rooting themselves in the rotation even if it is their first full season with the big club.

#### Seattle Mariners:

Last year the Mariners were expected to compete immediately after acquiring Erik Bedard from the Orioles for five players including budding star Adam Jones and top prospect Chris Tillman. The Mariners are calling the '08 season a wash and are starting fresh in 2009. Seattle acquired speedy outfields Endy Chavez and Franklin Gutierrez in a three-team deal in which they lost all-star closer J.J. Putz. With "King" Felix Hernandez and Bedard the Mariners have a formidable one-two punch but not much after that in veteran, overpaid, workhorses Carlos Silva and Jarrod Washburn. This year could go either way for the Mariners but at least fans get to watch Ken Griffey Jr. in Safeco again.

#### Texas Rangers:

No team in the majors scored more runs than the Ranger last season.

Problem? No team in the majors gave up more runs than the Rangers last season. Up-and-down the line-up, the Rangers haven't changed much, however certain players are not where they once were. Gold Glove shortstop Michael Young made the jump to third base to make way for toolsy prospect Elvis Andrus, a move that in turn forces Hank Blalock in to the role of designated hitter. With the loss of Milton Bradley the Rangers have two possible ways to fill the void. Nelson Cruz, who has had previous chances in the show and has failed to stick, and Chris Davis, who came in last year after the All-Star break and proved himself worthy against big league pitching. And of course, there is Josh Hamilton: "Nuf Said. For the sake of Rangers fans, I won't get into the pitching, but get ready for flamethrower Neftali Feliz and pitcher Derek Holland in the upcoming years.

#### NL East

**Atlanta Braves:**  
The Braves shook up their rotation big time this year with only two returning starters in Jair Jurrjens and veteran Tom Glavine. Atlanta traded multiple prospects to the White Sox for

#### New York Mets:

Take a look at the Mets offense this year and you'll recognize every name in the line-up. The Mets didn't bother to bolster their offense during the off-season instead working on what the biggest problem was a year ago: the bullpen. Early during the free agency period, the Mets worked out a \$37 million deal with former Angels' closer Francisco Rodriguez and then shocked some of the baseball world when they traded for another closer in Putz from the Mariners. Offensively, the Mets seem to be fine with David Wright, Jose Reyes, Carlos Delgado and Carlos Beltran scattered about the line-up. Right fielder Ryan Church was off to a hot start at the beginning of last season before colliding with a teammate and suffering a concussion that left him unable to return to early season form.

**Hanley Ramirez is regarded as one of the best young players in the MLB.**

**The UMW Track & Field team had 11 first place finishes at the annual Battleground Relays last Saturday.**



Courtesy of KeithAllison, flickr.com

**Josh Hamilton hit nearly 100 RBIs by the All-Star break. Hamilton is one of many hitters in the Rangers projected line-up that can go deep on any pitch.**

Javier Vazquez and later signed Japanese pitcher Kenshin Kawakami and postseason guru Derek Lowe. The Braves lost Mark Teixeira last year but were able to salvage a shred of dignity when they got Casey Kotchman in return. With one of the best catchers in the game in Brian McCann and future hall of famer Chipper Jones, the Braves will do continue to make the NL East among the most competitive divisions in baseball.

#### Florida Marlins:

Hanley Ramirez is easily among the best players in baseball while right fielder Cody Ross quietly had a very good 2008 campaign. The Marlins have a rotation that most teams would dream over: five young, under control, pitchers that have all shown at least some success in the majors. Though he is not listed as the staff ace, the 6'7" Josh Johnson, who missed most of 2007, came back at the end of 2008 and showed that his 12-7, 3.10 ERA season in his rookie year was no fluke.

Side note: I had the pleasure of seeing Johnson pitch in spring training this year and he is one of the most dominating, intimidating looking pitchers I have ever seen in person. He should be mowing down NL East competitors for years to come...at least until the Marlins decide to trade him because they are too cheap to extend anyone.

The Phillies had one of the quietest off-seasons in the majors after winning their first World Series since 1980. But when you're the world champions you can pretty much expect that if you did it once you can do it again. Up and down the Phillies have arguably the most consistent line-up in the National League. The Phils' have speed, power and defense in Jimmy Rollins, Chase Utley, Ron Howard and "The Flyin' Hawaiian" Shane Victorino. After the front office declined to resign Pat Burrell, the Phillies quickly filled their void in left by signing former Mariner Raul Ibanez. World Series MVP Cole Hamels has been battling minor injuries during spring training but is confident he will be able to pitch shortly after the start of the season, while Brett Myers and is looking to start of 2009 a little differently than his 2-6 start a year ago.



#### Washington Nationals:

The Nationals, desperate to appease their fans, went out and recklessly spent \$20 million on Adam Dunn. Though he has 40 home run power and will probably have an on-base percentage pushing .400, the Nationals are not nearly ready to contend in the NL East as they do not have the talent that the other teams do. Ryan Zimmerman may have lost some of his glamour after being on the DL for much of the season but as the true face of the franchise he will have to have a great season to keep fans happy. The rotation will most likely be among the worst in baseball, but it should be out to see how first-round draft pick, rookie Jordan Zimmerman performs. Take a left end of the hallway and take the third door on the right and the Nationals are back to where they were last year...the basement.



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#### Philadelphia Phillies:

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## Team of the Week

**The UMW Track & Field team had 11 first place finishes at the annual Battleground Relays last Saturday.**

## Athlete of the Week

**Senior pitcher Kirsten Rowell earned Capital Athletic Conference Player of the Week for the second time this season.**